

EXCLUSIVE
Lynn Redgrave
talks of her love
and betrayal
page 21

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Cashmere and biscuit exports hit Protest to US in banana trade war

By Philip Webster and Charles Bremner

BRITAIN'S relations with the United States were jolted last night as a dispute over banana imports to Europe flared into a trade war.

The American Ambassador to London was called to the Department of Trade and Industry to face a fierce protest over Washington's action in imposing swinging duties on £350 million worth of European goods, including the Scottish cashmere industry.

Philip Lader was told by Stephen Byers, the Trade Secretary, that the American action was irrational and unacceptable and he asked the US Government "in the spirit of friendship" to think again. There was no justification, he said, in inflicting damage on business and communities that were completely unrelated to the banana dispute. The Ambassador will face a similar rebuke at the Foreign Office today.

Mr Lader arrived at the DTI office in Whitehall last night in a Cadillac for the highly unusual "carpeting" of an American ambassador by a trade minister. The Government reacted to the American move by offering cash guarantees to help cashmere exporters to meet the new demands of US Customs.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade Secretary, said that it was a "diplomatic calamity of the highest order" that the Government had got into a trade war with the US and had failed to find a European Union banana regime that abided by international law.

It is the worst rift since the Americans granted Gerry Adams a visa against the Conservative Government's wishes in 1994. In recent history there were rows over the Amer-

Euro falls to lowest level

The euro fell to its lowest value against sterling and the dollar yesterday after Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Central Bank, rejected a German plea to cut interest rates to stop eurozone's biggest economy falling into recession.

In two months of trading, the new currency has fallen 8 per cent against the dollar and 5 per cent against the pound. Page 27

ican invasion of Grenada in 1983 and over US sanctions against European companies involved in building the Siberian oil pipeline to Europe.

America suddenly imposed the sanctions on Wednesday night over the refusal of Britain and other EU states to stop giving favourable treatment to bananas imported from the Caribbean and Africa.

British goods worth about £60 million, including cashmere and biscuits, and other items from Europe, including cheese, handbags, candles and bubble baths, are affected.

About 2,400 British jobs could be at risk. The long-threatened American action was a response to the EU's reluctance to accept an international ruling and give so-called "dollar" bananas, imported by US firms mainly from Latin America, equal market access with the fruit from former British and French islands.

The European Union argues that some protection is needed to support the livelihood of former colonies that depend on bananas for their economic survival.

Sir Leon Brittan, the Commissioner responsible for the EU's foreign trade, said that the American demand for firms to pay a 100 per cent "bond" on the imports was an irrational breach of international law that "risks a major trade confrontation".

Last November America announced its intention of retaliating against the EU by imposing 100 per cent duties on selected products. It sought World Trade Organisation (WTO) authority for the move, but when the WTO arbitrator said on Tuesday that he needed more information before making a decision, the American Government decided to go ahead anyway.

Although it argued that it would not apply the duties until after the arbitrator had ruled, the effect was the same because it asked exporters to put up bonds to cover possible duties in future.

Britain has been singled out for the heaviest retaliation apparently because of its backing for privileged banana trade with its former Caribbean territories, Denmark and the Netherlands has no sanctions because they do not back the EU stand.

In another dispute, Congress is moving closer to a ban on flights to the United States by the Anglo-French Concorde in retaliation for new EU noise controls that affect older American aircraft.

Banana republics, page 4
Leading article, Letters, page 23



Prince and the showgirls: The Duke of Edinburgh meeting some of the chorus line of the musical *Chicago* at the Adelphi theatre in the West End

Drama fit for a royal performance

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen slumped dead on her throne, poisoned. At the cry of "Treason! Seek it out!" another Queen jumped startled in her seat, as well as monarch might.

More or less everyone dies in the closing moments of *Hamlet*, which yesterday provided the opening scene of a day's tour of London theatreland by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen saw rather a lot of dying, while the Duke had much more fun with a line of chorus girls when he visited rehearsals for the musical *Chicago* at the Adelphi.

Themed days out are an innovation by the Palace, begun last year when the Queen spent a day visiting financial institutions in the City. Yesterday's was a recognition of London theatre's £225 million contribution to the balance of payments, and an opportunity for the thespian world to preen itself with pride.

Some one occurred at the Young Vic, which runs theatre workshops for local schoolchildren. Hamlet and Laertes rehearsed their final fatal duel for the Queen, who struggled to hear the Prince of Denmark's last words delivered in near-impenetrable Jamaican.

Scene two was infinitely more cheerful, as the Queen moved to the Lyceum to hear the cast of *Oklahoma* rehearsing the thigh-slapping *The Farmer and the Cowman Should be Friends*.

The monarch is not known as a regular theatregoer, but she does like *Oklahoma*, having seen the original London production in 1949. Princess Margaret liked it even more

and reportedly went to see it 27 times.

Last night the Royal couple went to see it again. It was the Queen's choice, and she had reportedly wavered between Rogers and Hammerstein and the current production of *Amadeus*.

The musical won, possibly on the strength of family recommendation; Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother saw the production at the National Theatre as a birthday treat last year.

Backstage at the Lyceum during her morning visit, the Queen met the cast headed by Maureen Lipman, who plays Aunt Eller, and who confessed that she would relish speaking the line "She'll feel like a queen sittin' up in that carriage", a reference to the surrey with the fringe on top. Scene three was markedly

grimmer. The Queen moved on to the Almeida Theatre in Islington to see Klaus Maria Brandauer, an eminent Austrian actor, in final rehearsal as Albert Speer, Hitler's armaments minister, set in 1980s East Berlin after Speer's release from prison.

Brandauer gave the Queen a magnificently Prussian bow and handshake, complete with click of the heels, and showed her the model of Speer's proposed Great Hall, which was to have been the

centrepiece of a new Berlin as capital of Hitler's Greater Germany. The Queen peered inside it, fascinated.

In the Almeida's rehearsal rooms the Queen met her ancestor and namesake, in the shape of the Australian actress Cate Blanchett, who has won an Oscar nomination for her film portrayal of Elizabeth I.

But Gloriana preferred to talk of her latest part, as Susan Traherne in David Hare's *Continued on page 2*

Abduction charge

Jeffrey and Jenny Bramley, the couple who were at the centre of a nationwide hunt after they disappeared for four months with their two foster daughters, were yesterday charged with abduction in Cambridgeshire. Page 5

TV & RADIO	50-51
WEATHER	26
CROSSWORDS	26-52
LETTERS	23
OBITUARIES	25
SIMON JENKINS	22
ARTS	34-37
CHESS & BRIDGE	47
COURT & SOCIAL	24
LAW REPORT	42
STYLE	20
BUSINESS	27-33

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Cook to face censure on leaks

By Roland Watson
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN COOK faces a severe censure from Parliament after he admitted yesterday to receiving two further leaks of select committee reports.

Tories accused the Foreign Secretary of complicity and called for his resignation after he had confessed to the embarrassing disclosure. It comes after last week's revelation that he had received two leaks in advance of the critical report on his department's handling of the arms-to-Africa affair.

Mr Cook was facing a drawn out inquiry into those particular episodes. However, last night's further admission threatened to mire the Foreign Secretary in a wider controversy of breaking parliamentary rules.

Shaun Woodward, Tory MP for Witney, accused Mr Cook of "a grave abuse of Parliament" and being party to "institutionalised leaking".

Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, has asked the cross-party Committee on Standards and Privileges to rule on whether a minister who receives leaked documents and fails to return them is in breach of parliamentary rules.

Handwritten notes tell tale of Uganda deaths

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN THE BWINDI NATIONAL PARK

HOLDING out death notes that had been placed on the chests of two victims of Monday's slaughter of tourists in southwest Uganda, an army colonel vowed that his men would hunt down and kill the Rwandan rebels responsible.

In the tourist camps, beneath the jungle canopy of the national park, lie fire-gutted vehicles and the roofless, burnt-out huts. Then the remnants of a last meal, eaten before anyone could have been aware of imminent danger.

And finally, a trail of scattered papers: a Wolverhampton Wanderers fixture list; two Putney cinema tickets for *Shakespeare in Love*; a shopping list; and a handful of receipts.

Lieutenant Colonel Benon Biraro of the Ugandan Army, said his troops, working in conjunction with the Rwandan Army, were closing in on the insurgents, some 25 miles across the Congolese border.

"I am confident that we will hunt them down," he said. "It will not be a day; it will not be a week, but we will get them," he said. "We are looking for them and we will kill them."

He said that 15 of the rebels had been killed on Wednesday in an ambush by the Rwandan Army on the Goma-Kisora road and that the Rwan-

dans were setting further traps for them. He said he did not regard the rebels, members of the Itombi-Hutu militia who were held responsible for the 1994 genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda, as adversaries but simply as terrorists and criminals who deserved no mercy.

He produced two notes, written in French on the backs of photographs of a gorilla and a kingfisher, which he said had been left on the chests of two men bludgeoned to death after being abducted with 12 other

Western tourists and forced-marched into Congo. Six other tourists, including four women, were also hacked to death. Four of them were British.

The notes confirmed earlier reports that English speakers had been singled out for execution. One note read: "This is the fate of the Anglo-Saxons who betrayed us to the Nilotics against the Bantu cultivators."

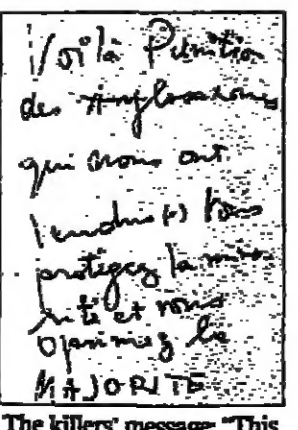
The terms Nilotics and Bantu cultivators are used in Rwanda to describe Tutsis and Hutus respectively.

The other note said: "This is the punishment for the Anglo-Saxons who sold us out. You are protecting the minority and you are oppressing the majority."

The standard of the handwriting, with only very minor spelling mistakes, shows a level of schooling not at all unusual among the Hutus. The Hutu leadership is extremely well educated.

At Buhoma camp, Congo-Tibesia, the manager, described what he had seen of the attack. "It went on for about 20 minutes. I ran to the camp to find out what was happening, but the people had already been taken and the fires were burning."

Yard joins FBI, pages 16, 17
Simon Jenkins, page 22



Lewinsky's tour of Britain

Monica Lewinsky will travel to 19 bookstores around Britain in 18 days to sign copies of Andrew Morton's book about her. The woman who almost brought down the President flies to London from New York on Sunday. On Monday she will sign at Harrods before heading for venues including the Trafford Centre in Manchester; Meadowhall in Sheffield; Merryhill, Birmingham; the Lakeside centre in Essex and the new Bluewater complex in Kent. Page 3

Posh Spice awaits baby

Posh Spice, Victoria Adams went into labour yesterday afternoon just 12 days after her fellow Spice Girl, Scary, had her daughter. Ms Adams, 24, was taken to the Portland Hospital in London with David Beckham, her fiancé and the Manchester United footballer. The parents are planning an August wedding.

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Yes, we have no mention of the 'b' word by the minister

I have summoned the US Ambassador, Stephen Byers, declared. Pooter, thou shouldst be living at this hour. For Mr Byers had come to tell us about bananas.

Banana is not a word that falls easily from the lips of such a dignified man. Carrying with him the air of a well-regarded local government accountant, Mr Byers displays the sort of purple-lipped gravity to which any mention of bananas would be a kind of affront. But Byers is the Secre-

tary of State for Trade and Industry, and Britain, with our European partners, is at daggers drawn with the United States, about ... well, you know what.

Yesterday Mr Byers had to make a Commons statement. The Americans are banning our knitwear because Europe won't take their ... you know what. Trade war looms. There was no way round mentioning the cause of it.

Quite possibly Mr Byers had never said "banana" in

his life. Banana splits are not the kind of pudding this quiet, neat, trim-suited man would order. If he had a pudding at all, it would be a small lemon sorbet. Simply to say the "b" word would get his specs steamed up.

But he said it. Once. Opting to get it over with fast, Byers had placed the word in the first sentence of his four-page statement. To remove any hint of gaiety that the word might have lent the passage, he coupled the banana with



two acronyms and the word "regime": "... dispute with the WTO over the EU's banana regime ...". And he had chosen a grey tie for the occasion — a different one from last Thursday. Byers keeps a whole rack of ties, all grey. He never said "banana" again in the singular. This

was quite a feat of draughtsmanship. We had "an amended regime", "this regime", "the US action" and "this decision". But on the penultimate page of his statement Byers locked himself into an argument that could be expressed in no other way. "It is particularly unfortunate," he said,

"that American action is directed against industries that have absolutely no connection with ...".

There was no way of getting round the fruit. He hit the bullet. "Bananas," he said. Not since John Selwyn Gummer had to say "porpoises" nine times during a single statement has pride been so punctured. Next week Mr Byers's civil servants plan to make him say "bottoms". The context is still being contrived. Words matter. One word

yesterday, wrongly reported, is in danger of entering books of political quotations in its mistaken form. Mocking what he saw as the anti-European zealotry of the present Official Opposition, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, called the Tories "the rump of a sect of a faction of a once-national party". A good line, I heard it, and have no doubt that those journalistic colleagues who reported "the rump of a sect ..." etc. misheard. But that was the version going the rounds

as reporters filed their copy. In fact it works as well as the original.

Even better would be to add the misheard to the heard: "the rump of the runt of a sect of a faction ..." etc. So shall we just settle on that?

□ The Times' "When Did You Stop Beating Your Wife?" parliamentary award: to Tory spokesman Nick Gibb. He asked the Chief Secretary which Labour most regretted making a false promise breaking it or being found out?

Water firms fear pollution by GM crops

WATER companies are demanding a moratorium on the commercial planting of genetically modified crops amid fears that chemicals used on them may pollute rivers, lakes and reservoirs.

The water industry fears that widespread planting of herbicide-tolerant crops, such as oil seed rape and sugar beet, might lead to problems in meeting the strict legal limits on the levels of individual weed and pest-killing chemicals in drinking water. The companies are concerned that they may face multimillion-pound bills to put in herbicide removal technologies at water treatment works.

A spokesman for Water UK, the industry's body, said: "We have genuine concerns about the widespread use of crops which rely on just two chemicals, so we favour a go-slow, a moratorium. We need time to find the answers. We need several years." An industry team of environmental and scientific experts is to meet for the first time this month, to investigate the possible effect on drinking water. English Nature, the Government's wildlife advisers, has called for a three to five-year moratorium.

At present farmers use a wide range of different herbicides to control weeds. Peter Beaumont, of the Pesticides

Nick Nuttall on concern that narrower range of farm chemicals may breach EU laws

Trust in London, estimates that between 60 and 70 are used in British agriculture. But genetically engineered crops such as oil seed rape, maize and sugar beet, which are being readied for commercial planting, work in conjunction with just two. These are glyphosate, marketed by Monsanto under the brand name Round Up, and glufosinate, marketed under the trade name of Liberty by AgrEvo.

The European Drinking Water Directive sets the limit for individual pesticides or herbicides in drinking water of 0.1 microgrammes per litre, or less than one part per billion. Total pesticide and herbicide levels must not be above 0.5 microgrammes per litre.

The latest report by the Government's Drinking Water Inspectorate says that in 1997, three million tests were carried out on tap water and that

99.75 per cent met the standards even in the big agricultural heartlands of East Anglia and Lincolnshire.

Water companies have invested £1 billion in treatment and at least one company, Wessex Water, paid farmers to switch to organic agriculture to reduce chemical sprays. The sheer range of herbicides available has also helped to keep individual chemicals within the European limits.

Water companies are worried that widespread planting of gene altered crops and their reliance on two weedkillers could lead to an increase in breaches. Pamela Taylor, chief executive of Water UK, said there were other concerns including the impact of wastes from animals eating the gene-altered crops. The industry is disappointed that it has not won the right to be told where such crops are being planted so it can monitor their impact.

John Fowell, chief toxicologist at the Water Research Centre in Henley-on-Thames, believes that gene-altered crops could be a boon to the environment. Seed companies say that farmers will need to use less sprays. He added: "This needs to be strictly monitored. If there is concern, it centres on breakdown products of these herbicides building up in ground water."



Elizabeth too: the Queen at costumed Angels and Barmans in London yesterday

Continued from page 1
Plenty. "It's quite terrifying; it's such an extraordinary play," said the former Elizabeth I.

Elizabeth II ran into her ancestor again at the theatrical costumed Angels and Barmans, where there was a reminder of her own theatrical past, a 1944 photograph of herself and her sister performing in *Old Mother Red Riding Boots*, one of a series of Christmas pantomimes they mounted at Windsor during the war.

It was time for the interval.

Royalty in West End

consisting of lunch at the Ivy. The lucky ladies who got to sit next to the Queen over a lunch of plum tomato and basil galete, salmon fishcakes and Scandinavian ice cream were Dr Jonathan Miller and Michael Codron, producer of Michael Frayn's *Copenhagen*.

The final act of the afternoon starred Lord Atten-

ough and was played at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, of which Dickie is chairman. He showed the Queen fending classes, an expression class for visiting Japanese actors, and students rehearsing a death scene from the Jacobean tragedy *The Changeling*. "I started this morning with young people at the Young Vic, and they were dying like flies," the Queen said brightly, telling the drama coach that it was crucial to ask the dying heroine to breathe more deeply when she was wearing such a tight corset.

No job for 400 doctors trained at £40m

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of urgently needed specialist doctors, who cost the National Health Service millions of pounds to train, face dismissal because there is no money to provide them with jobs.

The first notices have been sent out terminating the doctors' contracts: they take effect from the end of this month. By May 2001 about 400 doctors, trained at a cost of £40 million, will have to quit medicine, go abroad or start another five-year course in another specialty with no certainty of a job at the end of it.

The doctors are obstetricians and gynaecologists but the British Medical Association said yesterday that because of "shambolic workforce planning" they would be only the first specialists to be hit in this way. Before long, ear, nose and throat specialists, as well as cardio-thoracic and renal surgeons would face a similar problem. At the same time there would be unfilled vacancies for radiologists and psychiatrists.

"This is a human tragedy for trained, experienced doctors who are being put on the scrapheap in their thirties, and for the women and children who are dying because of lack of care," Ian Bogle, chairman of the BMA, said. "We have been warning the Government for years that this was going to happen and this is just the first crisis."

"It will happen in other specialisms too. The frightening thing is the Government thinks it has a good workforce plan when in fact it is shambolic. These doctors have been betrayed and deceived. They have spent years in medical school, done all the terrible hours of junior doctors, completed more training to become a specialist and are now being told they are redundant."

Nizam Mamode, deputy chairman of the Junior Doctors' committee, said the Government was wasting a perfect opportunity to improve maternity care. "It is a scandal that these people are being jettisoned while women don't get the care they deserve," he said.

"The scandal does not stop there. There is to be a reduction of 293 being accepted for training but the Health Department have refused to spend the £5.4 million that this will save on hiring the consultants who have already been trained. The whole thing seems crazy."

About 500 doctors were recruited to train as obstetricians and gynaecologists over the past five years because the NHS estimated in the early 1990s that there was a need for 7 per cent more consultant posts in the specialty. However, the ongoing cash squeeze in the NHS means that only 2 per cent more posts have been created and last year there were 28 vacancies in the field.

Census to ask if couples are gay

Questions on personal relationships that will determine for the first time how many people are living as homosexual couples are to be included in the 2001 census.

It will also ask people their religion for the first time since 1851 and contain new questions on race, including one asking those who class themselves as white to say whether they are Irish.

Couples will be asked to indicate either if they are married, unrelated or "partners". The data will be analysed to find out how many couples of the same sex describe themselves as partners. The question was welcomed by gay rights campaigners, who argued that it would give the first official recognition to homosexual "marriages".

E. coli outbreak

An 18-month-old girl is one of three children seriously ill with possible kidney failure after an outbreak of *E. coli* food poisoning in Cumbria. Twenty-five people have been affected and 11 are still in hospital. Health officials are checking a possible link with milk from a farm at Brigham near Cockermouth.

Smaller classes

Ministers expect to more than halve the number of young children in large classes after allocating another £150 million to provide new classrooms and employ more teachers in primary schools. It is forecast that fewer than 200,000 children aged five to seven will be in classes of more than 30 by September.

Porpoise dies

A pregnant porpoise that was rescued by divers from the Thames at Westminster died minutes later. Paul Jepson of London Zoo, who was carrying out a post-mortem examination, said there was no obvious cause of death. He said the 4ft harbour porpoise might have been distressed after being stranded at a low tide.

Vet rents scanner

A hospital in West Sussex is to raise money by renting a scanner used to detect brain and spine tumours to a vet. Officials at Worthing Hospital said that there was no health risk and that patients would retain priority over pets. The vet, Ralph Abercromby, is to use the £600,000 machine two or three evenings a week.

CORRECTION

Our map showing local government elections in May 1999 omitted the 36 Metropolitan Boroughs such as Newcastle, Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and Birmingham, where one third of the seats are up for election this year. Also left out were the district councils in which all the council seats are being contested in May.

Solicitors hit back after 'seamy' slur

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS' leaders angrily denounced the Government last night after a minister told them to get their house in order and crack down on the "seamy" side of the profession.

The Law Society told a Home Office minister to "put up or shut up" in a clash over allegedly poor and incompetent advice offered to asylum seekers and immigrants. Michael Mathews, the President of the Law Society, signalled that the profession had finally lost patience with the Government following the latest criticism from the immigration minister.

Mike O'Brien, the minister who is also a solicitor, said there were real concerns about the activities of some solicitors. He said: "There is a clear message to the legal profession. There is a seamy side to my profession and I want that seamy side cleaned up."

He added: "The Law Society have been asked to sort it out and we expect them to do so. We don't want to have these advisers and lawyers providing

incompetent and sometimes corrupt advice."

"We expect the Law Society and the Bar, in some respects, to ensure that the law is cleaned up."

Mr O'Brien, who was speaking at a conference in London organised by the Immigration Advisory Service, gave warning that if the Law Society did not rid the profession of poor immigration lawyers the Government would require solicitors to register under a new system of regulation.

The Government is to set up statutory regulation of non-legally qualified immigration advisers but has exempted solicitors because the Law Society has agreed to introduce improved training for firms offering legal advice on immigration and asylum issues.

The Law Society said it had repeatedly requested information from the Home Office about firms involved in providing incompetent advice. It said without detailed allegations it was powerless to act against firms.

Aitken 'recovering from stroke'

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative Cabinet minister who is awaiting sentence for perjury and perverting the course of justice, was said yesterday to be recovering from a minor stroke.

The stroke apparently happened last week and involved burst blood vessels that affected his sight. His lawyers said he was expected to make a full recovery, but his mother at first said she knew nothing about it. However, Lady Aitken said later: "I gather he has had what they call a mini-stroke ... not an incapacitating sort. He is perfectly all right."

Said Aitken's friend and former business partner, yesterday walked free from the Old Bailey after charges against him of attempting to pervert the course of justice were dropped. The former MP had pleaded not guilty to the latter charge, which had been jointly laid against the two men.

After the hearing, Mr Ayas said: "I am

Case is dropped against ex-business partner, writes Michael Horsnell

very relieved. It is has been a very stressful time when you are in a case like this." The withdrawal of the two charges against Mr Ayas — together with the fact that Aitken, 56, has already admitted other charges — mean that details of their relationship, which might have embarrassed the Saudi Arabian royal family and the British Government, will never be heard in open court.

Aitken, who was Defence Procurement Minister and then Chief Secretary to the Treasury under John Major, made a £20-million confession to police admitting he had woven a web of deceit during his unsuccessful libel action in 1997 against *The Guardian* and Granada Tele-

vision for which he still has to pay £2 million in costs. His civil action centred on the allegation that he had stayed at the Ritz in Paris in 1993 at the expense of prominent Saudi friends — in breach of rules covering government ministers. It was his lying at the High Court about the trip that led to criminal charges.

Aitken subsequently confessed that he alone was responsible for forcing his wife Lolita, his teenage daughter Victoria and Mr Ayas to tell lies in witness statements. In his confession, Aitken detailed how the Saudis paid a second hotel bill for him as a minister the day after the infamous *jaunt* in Paris. *The Times* understands.

The Lebanese-born Mr Ayas, 56, formally pleaded not guilty yesterday to the two charges against him, and Mr Justice Pons directed that not-guilty verdicts be recorded.

Details of Aitken's confession were disclosed at a committal hearing in December which could not then be reported.




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Lakeside: the business end of the affair

By CAROL MIDDLELEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE TOUR

WHEN Monica Lewinsky began her affair with the US President it is unlikely that she saw it ending with a trip to the Lakeside shopping centre in Essex.

The shopping and fast-food emporium, which starred in a recent BBC docu-soap, is, however, where she can be seen at 11.20am on Saturday week, signing copies of Andrew Morton's book and fulfilling that obligatory requirement of the modern book deal — the publicity blitz.

Miss Lewinsky will travel to 19 bookstores around the country in 18 days. The woman who almost brought down the President flies to London from New York on Sunday. On Monday she will sign at Harrods before heading for venues including the Trafford Centre in Manchester; Meadowhall in Sheffield; Merryhill, Birmingham; and the new Bluewater complex in Kent.

Security will be almost as tight as for a president. A firm of private security guards has spent weeks studying the layout of book shops as far afield as Glasgow and Bath and advising managers on where she should sit and where the pub-

lic, clamouring for a glimpse of the world's most famous lover, should queue up.

Miss Lewinsky will have 24-hour use of a chauffeur-driven Mercedes courtesy of her publishers, Michael O'Mara Books, and will be accompanied at all times by a bodyguard, a publicist, and two sales managers.

Many celebrities refuse to tour book shops outside London, but Miss Lewinsky, 25, has gamely agreed to a sometimes grueling schedule.

By tradition she will make her debut at Harrods, where she will sit at the desk where such historic figures as Mikhail Gorbachev, Norman Schwarzkopf, and Baroness Thatcher have autographed copies of their weighty tomes.

A spokesman for Harrods said: "She will not be coming in through one of the main public entrances, she will be coming in the back way and up to the Art Room where many, many famous people have signed their books."

He added that Harrods was expecting big crowds and security would be at a maximum. Within three hours of an advertisement being placed in Lon-

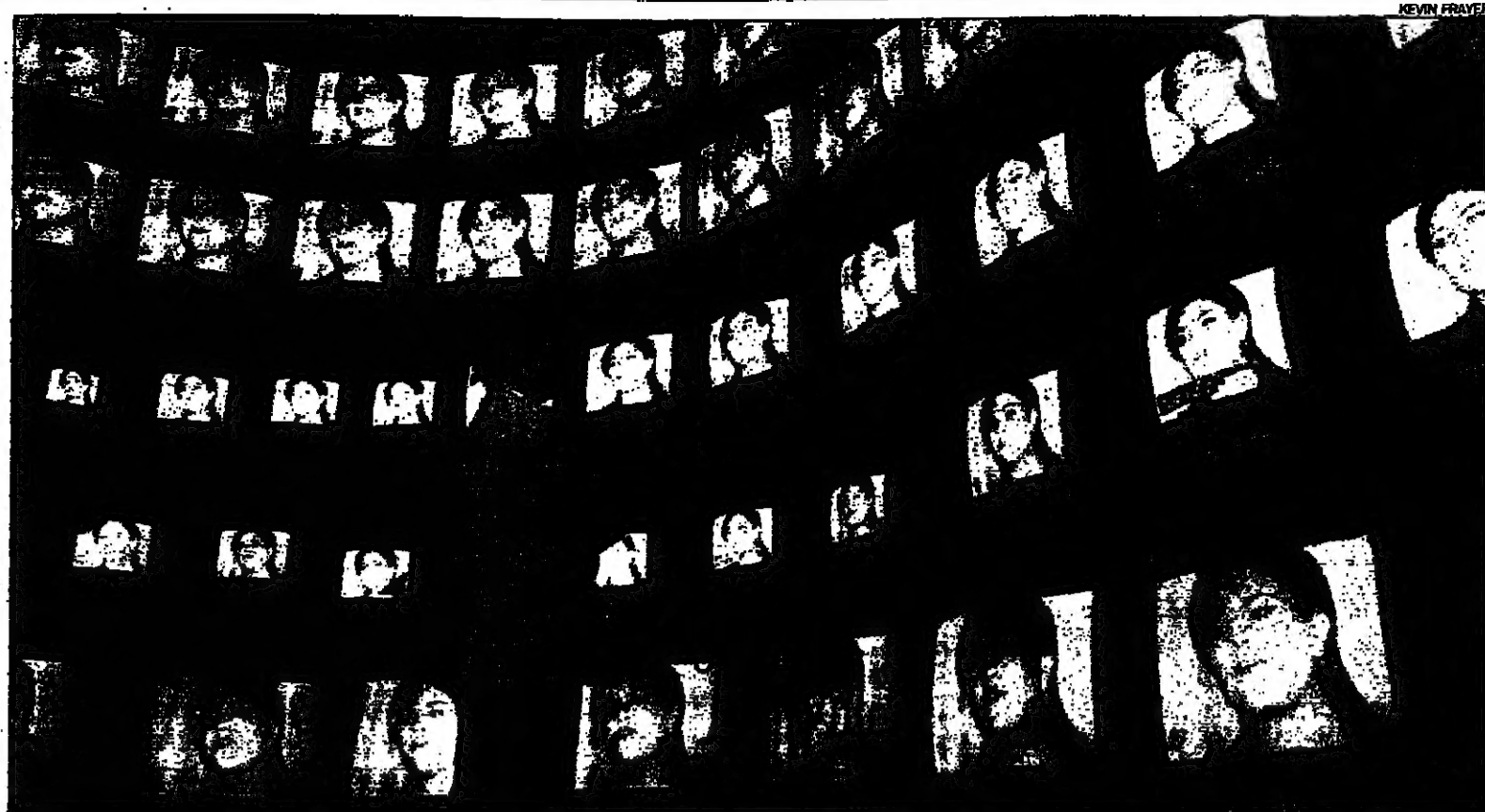
don's *Evening Standard*, 150 orders had been placed for reserved signed copies of *Monica's Story*.

Press photographers and cameramen will be allowed to take pictures of the former Whitehouse intern for 15 minutes before signings. However, journalists are not allowed to ask her questions.

A spokeswoman for Dillons in Newcastle, which Miss Lewinsky will visit on March 16, said: "She is bringing her own security people who we understand have been supplied by the publishers. We had a visit from them last week to look over the store. She will not be sitting at street level."

"We are really looking forward to it. Not all famous people are prepared to go outside of London to promote their books so we think there will be a real buzz to the day."

The author Andrew Morton, who is in the US promoting the book until March 13, will join her at Waterstones in Leeds on March 16. Miss Lewinsky has visited Britain once before during her work with the Pentagon. Later, in December 1997, she wrote a letter to Bill Clinton in which she said: "I loved you with all of my heart. Bill, and wanted to



A shop assistant watches Ms Lewinsky's ABC interview at a store in Toronto. A record 70 million Americans are believed to have tuned in

The show that stopped a nation

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH
IN WASHINGTON

THE TELEVISION DEBUT

AMERICANS, many of whom have been insisting for months that they just wanted Monica Lewinsky to go away, made her first television interview the most watched news programme in the nation's history.

The ABC said that provisional ratings figures indicated that 70 million people had watched some or all of the interview with Barbara Walters on Wednesday night. That unexpectedly eclipsed the 62 million who saw Oprah Winfrey's interview with Michael Jackson in 1993 and

the 34 million who saw the interview with the Clintons in the wake of allegations during the 1992 campaign that Mr Clinton had an affair with Gennifer Flowers. Opinion polls have consistently shown that Americans claim they are fed up with the Lewinsky saga but the ratings demonstrated that a quarter of the population could not resist hearing what she had to say, and that more than half the nation's television sets were tuned in.

In bars, gyms and airport lounges across the country, all eyes were on Ms

Lewinsky, weeping and joking by turn. At Washington's Dulles Airport, passengers stepping off planes delayed by bad weather crowded around television sets to watch Ms Lewinsky tell her tale. "We are thrilled," an ABC spokeswoman said yesterday. The network charged about \$400,000 for each 30 second advertising spot during the interview.

Ms Lewinsky, who was not paid, had said that she wanted to tell people she was not a strumpet. She appeared to have had some success, with 44 percent of viewers saying that they thought more favourably of her after the broadcast, according to an ABC poll.

Pentagon protects identity of President's love rival

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE OTHER MAN

THE Pentagon yesterday shielded the identity of the defence official whose child Monica Lewinsky said she aborted during her relationship with President Clinton.

Ms Lewinsky refers to him with only a first name, "Thomas". In Andrew Morton's book *Monica's Story* she described him as "brilliant and exciting" in her interview on American television but was reluctant to say much more about him.

She did tease Mr Clinton about there being another man, telling him that he had competition. She did not tell him about the abortion, which she had found to be "just horrible and very depressing".

Thomas, 42, a civilian policy strategist, was single at the time of his three-month affair with Ms Lewinsky but has since married. He was said to have recoiled in horror when her relationship with Mr Clinton became public knowledge in January last year.

Thomas and Ms Lewinsky first met as members of a US delegation visiting Bosnia while she worked as an administrative assistant to Ken Bacon, the chief Pentagon spokesman. She was moved to the Pentagon by White House staff who thought she was see-

ing too much of the President. Soon after Bosnia she saw Thomas for a date and he invited her to stay the night at her house, according to the book. She declined because the President might call her at home, as indeed he did, and they chatted far into the night.

She ended the affair with Thomas because, ironically, he was seeing other women and by then it was clear he was never going to be the new love of her life. "I enjoyed his company and I had feelings for him but not very strong feelings," Ms Lewinsky said. She discovered that she was pregnant just as the affair was ending in October 1996.

At the Pentagon, senior officials turned aside questions about the identity of Thomas, saying the affair was consensual and was not connected with defence policy. Colleagues have described him as an innocent bystander who did nothing improper. A Clinton aide said: "This may be the only example of someone whose life hasn't been ruined by an association with the scandal."

The Morton book, which went on sale in America yesterday, sheds new light on potential problems facing Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, over alleged strong-arm



The Morton book: not covered by Starr ban

tactics used by his staff. Under the immunity agreement in exchange for her grand jury testimony, Ms Lewinsky was barred from discussing the conduct of Mr Starr's staff on television but the deal did not apply to the book.

One chapter recounts how Michael Emmick, a Starr prosecutor, called her lawyer, William Ginsburg, and offered to fax a copy of the affidavit in which she denied having an affair with Mr Clinton. She had signed the false statement in connection with the Paula Jones case. Two FBI agents who were in the room at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel near the Pentagon pulled Mr Emmick roughly away from the telephone. They realised that Mr Ginsburg would instantly real-

ise that Starr's office had seen the affidavit before it was filed with the court and it must have come from Ms Jones's lawyers, the book says.

The US Justice Department is investigating whether Mr Starr's staff had improper contacts with Ms Jones's lawyers and attempted to make Ms Lewinsky co-operate with them without letting her have a lawyer present. Ms Lewinsky has said she was terrified by threats that she could be imprisoned for 27 years for obstruction of justice.

It was to be many months, however, before she signed the immunity deal that enabled Mr Starr to proceed. Without her help and without the infamously stained dress, he would have been unable to make the case for impeachment against the President.

Asked on television about the dress, Ms Lewinsky said: "It's fun to think it was a souvenir but that's not what it was." She explained that she did not know what the stains were at first and the reason why she never had the garment dry-cleaned was because she had grown too fat for it.

Ms Lewinsky said there was no new Prince Charming in her life but she would still like to marry and have children. She was asked how she would describe her presidential affair to them.

"Mommy made a big mistake," she replied, grinning.

'He didn't have to deny the relationship with such anger'

THE INTERVIEW

By OUR MEDIA
CORRESPONDENT

MONICA LEWINSKY last night answered any lingering doubts as to whether she might still be in love with President Clinton.

In an interview with Jon Snow on Channel 4, she recalled the precise moment her feelings towards him turned sour. She said that she now switched channels if he appeared on television.

Miss Lewinsky, 25, could not hide the bitterness as she told Snow that she had come to realise that "rather than there being a man, Bill Clinton, he's 100 per cent politician". She added: "He's a good politician, but 100 per cent politician." Asked whether she hated or loved him when she saw him on television, she said: "Not love him, but sometimes I hate him."

Most of her hatred was clearly reserved for Linda Tripp, the woman who taped the conversations in which Ms Lewinsky detailed her affair. "She gutted me. She violated me. She knifed me." The former White House intern also disclosed that she would



Monica Lewinsky with her interviewer, Jon Snow

like the famous semen-stained Gap dress returned to her so that she could burn it.

Her illusions about the President were shattered, she said, when she saw him on national television denying that he had ever had a sexual relationship with "that woman Monica Lewinsky".

"I remember exactly where I was, sitting on the bed in the apartment, watching TV, legs crossed... I felt I could see and hear in his voice and his actions how very angry he was with me. And that hurt. He could have denied this relationship in a different way. He

didn't have to do it with such — such anger."

She said she knew she no longer loved him when she heard that he had told White House staff that she was a "stalker" who had entrapped him. "That was the moment and the realisation that I fell completely out of love with him."

"I had hoped that he had sort of, y'know, turned a blind eye and said, 'Do what you need to protect me but I don't want to be a part of it, and instead he was in there, writing all the plays.'"

During the interview, which

has been sold by Channel 4 to more than 30 countries, she admitted that she had been devoted to President Clinton and had hoped for a future with him after he left office.

The first time she had seen him it had "taken her breath away". "He has a very magnetic sense about him and he's very sensual and attractive and draws you into his energy," she said.

"He just sort of looks at you, he locks eyes with you and he sort of peels away the layers of your being with his eyes and with his energy and his spirit and it's very intense."

One of the things she had found most humiliating was the idea that their sex had been "one-sided". "This notion that... I received nothing is false... [during] the first encounter he concentrated on me and focused on me more before I focused on him."

However, she admitted: "He didn't say he was in love with me, no."

Asked what she would say if she saw him again, Miss Lewinsky said she would apologise for being "indiscreet about the relationship". But she added: "Right now I could think of a few other people that I'd rather spend an evening with than him."



Stay of execution for knitwear industry

Government pledge gives glimmer of hope to a mainstay of Borders economy, reports Shirley English

MILL towns in the Scottish Borders fear ruin because of the trade war over bananas. Twenty-two small companies that produce cashmere knitwear said that up to 1,000 jobs were at risk because of the threatened loss of business worth £20 million.

MPs and the industry began intensive campaigning to protect the mills' 2,300 staff when the 100 per cent tariff on 14 randomly chosen items was mooted by the US in December. Their efforts appeared to have failed, with the mills becoming the main victim of a dispute that has nothing to do with them.

Yesterday afternoon, however, there was a glimmer of hope when the Government announced that it would underwrite the cost of the tariffs for cashmere, the worst-affected British industry.

Half of all European cashmere and 90 per cent of British cashmere comes from the Borders. In towns such as Hawick nine in ten jobs are dependent on the industry. Brian Wilson, the Trade Minister, accused the US of declaring "economic warfare" on the region by targeting its main employer.

David Douglas, chief executive of Scottish Borders Enterprise, welcomed the Government's intervention yesterday. But he said: "Morale is still very low. We are all going to

be on tenterhooks for the next six weeks until the World Trade Organisation makes its ruling. There is a fear that this could get worse and we have no control over it."

The government pledge provided a lifeline for Clan Douglas, a Hawick company that exports 90 per cent of its luxury knitwear to the US. Without it the firm would have closed by August, Arthur Rennie, the factory manager, said.

"The situation is desperate. Having to pay these bonds would have meant we quite literally would have run out of cash. The government pledge

will have to last for the duration of the threat. It needs to call America's bluff, otherwise it will be disastrous," he said.

"The US has known from the start what these trade sanctions would mean for the Scottish Borders but has continued to pursue them relentlessly. There is supposed to be a Tarran Day in the States on April 6; black armbands would be more appropriate."

Concern had been growing that nervous US customers were looking elsewhere for suppliers because of the uncertainty caused by the banana war. George Peden, chief execu-

utive of the Scottish Cashmere Association, said: "Our biggest concern was that we needed to give our customers confidence that they could place the orders with Scotland and we would deliver the goods without the 100 per cent duty. That is the lifeline the Government has given us."

The Borders economy has already been hit hard by the strong pound and the economic crisis in the Far East, which resulted in thousands of job losses in textiles and the electronics industry, the area's other main employer.

"If the mills close, there will be nothing left for Hawick," said Betty Turnbull, 55, who works for Clan Douglas and has been in the industry all her life, like her parents.

Letters, page 23



Sir Leon Brittan denouncing the sanctions yesterday. He said that the US risked a "major trade confrontation"

America's complex links with banana republics

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

OFFICIALS for the Clinton Administration say the decision to take the banana issue to the World Trade Organisation was based on a mix of US corporate interest and the principle of free trade. But others detect a more sinister explanation.

The three biggest US fruit companies — Dole, Chiquita Brands and Del Monte — control about 60 per

cent of the world market compared with the Caribbean growers' 3 per cent. Chiquita complains that European tariffs cost it more than \$60 million a year in revenues. Expecting to expand their markets in Eastern Europe dramatically after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, American companies invested heavily in their Latin American plantations but have seen little return. As for political influence, during

the mid-90s, when Chiquita was pressing the Clinton Administration to take its case before the WTO, Carl Lindner, Chiquita's chairman, reportedly donated more than \$1 million to the Democrat Party. In fact the Cincinnati-based tycoon has been pumping money into US campaign coffers — Democrat and Republican — for decades. Critics say the donations are what enabled Mr Lindner to win sudden access to the

Clinton Administration — including key meetings with Mike Kantor when US Trade Representative. America has a long history of defending the banana companies' interests in Latin America. In 1954 the CIA helped to overthrow Jacobo Arbenz, Guatemala's socialist president, in part to protect the plantations of the United Fruit Company, as Chiquita was then known. The companies' influence in Central

America earned Honduras its "banana republic" reputation. The companies notoriously vied for government favours, paying huge bribes. In 1975 Eli Black, the chairman of United Brands, committed suicide after it was disclosed that he paid a \$1.25 million bribe to the Honduran Government. The Honduran President was subsequently toppled by a military coup. Although more democratic governments have emerged in

Central America, the US companies remain highly protective of their domain. In the early 1990s their influence was demonstrated when they tried to elbow out the British company Fyffes, which was trying to get into the Central American market. Fyffes executives in northern Honduras had to arm themselves with stun guns against attacks and kidnapping attempts by police allegedly in the pay of Americans.

Two countries divided by a common fruit

BRITISH-AMERICAN relations have always been more about national interest than sentiment. Usually there has been close co-operation on defence and intelligence, yet both countries have from time to time disagreed on economic and trade matters. That was vividly illustrated yesterday in the Commons when George Robertson's assertion of Anglo-US solidarity on the Iraq

no-fly zone was followed by Stephen Byers's theatrical announcement that he had "summoned" the American Ambassador over the banana dispute. Talk of "carpeting" and the like is gesture politics that exaggerates the current strains on Washington/London relations and gives a misleading impression of what the dispute involves.

The British and American Governments have almost always been able to balance differences over trade issues with close agreement in other areas. The Blair and Clinton Administrations now see eye to eye on Bosnia, Iraq, Northern Ireland and Kosovo.

Nonetheless, the banana dispute matters, not least because it has developed into such a public spat. Washington and Brussels have argued for several years over American claims that Europe gives unfair access to bananas imported from former colonies in the Caribbean and Africa. No jobs in Europe or America are directly affected by the banana trade, as opposed to the threatened retaliation.

The Clinton Administration and British sceptics accuse Brussels of being intransigent and flouting the spirit of the rules of the World Trade Organisation. In Washington, the view, European concessions after past WTO rulings still allow a regime that discriminates against US distributors of Latin

American fruit. The EU and Mr Byers, argue that the American retaliatory tariffs are unlawful under WTO rules, as well as inflammatory. A WTO arbitrators' panel is considering whether the EU has complied with its previous rulings.

There have been rumblings from the European side that the White House may have been too influenced by Carl Lindner, the chairman of the banana group Chiquita Brands International, who has been a sizeable political donor. At the same time, the Clinton Administration has been under pressure from Congress, which might have wanted mandatory sanctions if action had not been taken on Wednesday. These measures are partly symbolic and intended to buy time until the arbitrators' report is ready.

Underlying this argument is the threat of more general protectionism across the Atlantic. Congress and American policymakers are worried about the rapidly rising US trade deficit and have been pressing for cuts in European interest rates to boost growth. This has led to increasing tensions for instance, on Wednesday, the House of Representatives passed a Bill that would ban Concorde from flying into the US if the EU proceeds with plans to ban certain older American planes.

This is all about American claims that the European Airbus has an unfair advantage. At stake is not just the authority of the WTO, and greater Congressional resentment at such multinational bodies, but also broader economic and trade tensions between the US and Europe. The failure of normal diplomacy to resolve such a minor dispute as that on bananas shows how tricky relations have become.

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Couple charged with abducting foster children

A COUPLE who were at the centre of a nationwide hunt after they disappeared for four months with their foster daughters were last night charged with abduction, police said yesterday.

Jeffrey and Jenny Bramley, both 35, who live near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, have been charged with offences contrary to the Child Abduction Act 1984. They will appear before magistrates in Peterborough, on April 8.

They were interviewed by police in January on their return to Britain after spending 18 months in Ireland.

The couple have been granted temporary custody of Jade, 5, and Hannah, 3, pending a High Court hearing about their future. Now it is likely that criminal proceedings will be heard before that hearing.

The maximum penalties un-

Case will be heard before civil proceedings, report Frances Gibb and Claudia Joseph

der the Act are seven years' imprisonment for each offence if it is heard in the Crown Court; although if the couple pleaded guilty and were tried by magistrates the maximum penalty is six months per offence.

The prosecution is being brought on the advice of the Crown Prosecution Service. It was not clear yesterday whether it would have taken any account of the civil proceedings

pending over the girls' future. The Official Solicitors' Department, which is representing the girls because they have now been made wards of court, said that it was not unusual for criminal and civil proceedings to be running in tandem. An official said: "Where, for instance, you have a child-abuse allegation, you can often have a judge at the same time trying to grapple with whether a child should be placed in care."

Mr and Mrs Bramley disappeared from their home last September just before they were due to hand back the girls, who are half sisters, to social workers. They had been told that they would not be able to adopt them.

The couple reappeared in January when it emerged that they and the girls had been living in "good-quality accommo-



Jeffrey and Jenny Bramley, who now face two court hearings over the fate of the two girls they have fostered

dation" in a caravan on the west coast of Ireland. The couple were told that they could keep the girls temporarily pending a decision by the High Court on their future.

Harry Fletcher, assistant

general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, expressed concern last night that the bringing of criminal charges could prejudice the outcome of the adoption inquiry. "This is high-

ly unusual and does not appear to fit into any of the usual categories for abduction," he said. These are child sex offenders who are jailed; disturbed women who seized babies and would receive psychi-

atric help; and parents in "bug of love" cases where the abduction was normally dealt with by injunctions in the civil courts. "None of these would seem to be appropriate here," he said.

Teacher suspends son for drinking

By Simon de Bruxelles

A HEADMASTER has suspended his own teenage son for drinking during a school trip. Emyr George, 15, was one of the three pupils on a residential music course caught drinking lager smuggled in from an off-licence.

The two boys and a girl, the daughter of a senior education authority official, were described as being "in high spirits" when they were caught.

They were among a group of 80 young musicians attending a weekend course at the Ogmore Centre Trust near Bridgend in South Wales.

Arwel George, their headmaster, suspended the trio for three days. The suspension was backed by governors at the Penweddig Comprehensive School at Aberystwyth in west Wales.

Mr George said yesterday: "I have dealt with my son in the same way I would with any other pupil. He was suspended for three days but is now back in classes and the matter is over. Justice has been seen to have been done."

Examiner punched by driver taking test

By Helen Johnstone

A LEARNER driver who believed that he had failed his driving test punched and kicked his examiner in a fit of rage, a court was told yesterday.

Outraged at his failure after 12 months of lessons and an earlier test, Gareth Wandless cut short the test and drove towards the test centre in Newbury, Berkshire, at up to twice the legal limit.

Magistrates in the town were told that Frank Johnston, the examiner, slammed on his dual control brakes yards from the test centre, whereupon Wandless, 18, punched him in the face, got out of the car, opened the passenger door and repeatedly kicked him.

Barry Kochanek, for the prosecution, said that Wandless, who admitted the assault on February 26, then fled as a test centre assistant came to the examiner's aid.

Michael Davis, for Wandless, told the court: "Taking a driving test is always a difficult time. There is bound to be tension. Gareth knew things had not gone well and he had an inkling that he had not passed his test. It would appear that he and the driving examiner did not get on."

Sentence on Wandless, the eldest of four children living with his mother in Newbury, was adjourned for reports. He said after the hearing: "I should have just walked away. I looked down and saw three big crosses. I have spent hundreds of pounds on lessons and have had at least three different instructors. I think I am going to give up now."

Life for bungled second offence

By Paul Wilkinson

A BANK robber who was caught after obeying a clerk's instructions to sit and wait was jailed yesterday. Andrew Buckland was given a mandatory life sentence for a second violent crime.

Judge David Swift said that his "incompetence and inefficiency" did not exempt him from the Crime and Sentencing Act 1997. Buckland, 30, has a previous conviction for possessing a firearm with intent. The judge imposed a minimum sentence of seven years and Buckland will remain on licence for life.

Minstall Street Crown Court, Manchester, was told that Buckland, carrying a hidden toy gun, went into the Barclays branch in Stockport last June, intending to grab as much cash as he could. He queued for the counter and produced a note that read: "This is a robbery, give us your money. I've got a gun."

He had signed it with his own name. It was written on the back of a letter from his local authority, bearing his name and address. The clerk said: "Will you take a seat sir, we will deal with you in a moment," and summoned police.

Buckland denied attempted robbery and having an imitation firearm but was convicted after a trial last month.

Bunty Batra, his counsel, said that Buckland had had domestic problems. "Parliament did not intend that defendants who go into a bank with a toy gun and a note with their name and address on should get a sentence of life imprisonment."



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Alan Davies

£135,000 for mechanic frightened by police

By Helen...

A 44-year-old mechanic has been offered £135,000 to settle a claim for damages after he was frightened by police officers. The claimant, who is a former police officer, says he was terrified by the officers' actions and has since suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. He is seeking compensation for the damages to his mental health. The claimant's lawyer says the offer is a "very generous" one and that the claimant is happy to accept it. The claimant's lawyer says the claimant is a "very brave" man and that he is happy to accept the offer. The claimant's lawyer says the claimant is a "very brave" man and that he is happy to accept the offer.

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Crash victim thinks wife is an impostor

A LOVING husband turned cold against his wife because he believes she has been replaced by an impostor, a court was told yesterday. Alan Davies is convinced that his real wife of 31 years died in a car crash and he now refuses even to hug the woman who still shares his life.

Mr Davies, 52, was awarded £130,000 damages yesterday after it was claimed that his rare medical syndrome was caused by the crash that he and his wife, Christine, 50, both survived.

The husband suffered minor injuries and shock and his wife had whiplash. But he has flashbacks of his wife screaming and lying dead. In his psychological condition, known as Capgras Syndrome, patients suffer a break in the link between areas of the brain responsible for visual recognition and emotional response, and the mind tries to rationalise it by concluding that a familiar face has been replaced by an impostor.

After the crash in September 1995, in which another driver cut across the couple's car, Mr Davies, from Rhonda, South Wales, has been

Husband wins £130,000 after courts hears of rare syndrome, reports Simon de Bruxelles

forced to give up his job as a craft teacher at the Tonypanody Comprehensive School.

His wife, whom he now calls Christine II, told the High Court in Cardiff: "Before the accident he was an extrovert, very spontaneous and emotional. He was sociable and animated. Every day when we got up for breakfast he would say 'Good morning, I love you' and would give me a kiss. We would go out a lot and had a very happy sex life."

"Our only contact now is when I give him a hug, but he doesn't respond. He doesn't want to talk about anything. Only our old friends come round because only they know not to get upset when Alan gets up and leaves the room

without saying a word." The couple's eldest daughter, Caroline Davies, 29, said: "Before the accident my dad was the life and soul of the party. Now they don't interact any more. Dad is constantly stressed by any show of affection."

Mr Davies said that he had been prescribed medication but did not always take it: "I have good days and bad days but I still believe my wife has died. We have discussed divorce but she doesn't want to."

Dr Sudad Jawad, a consultant psychiatrist, told the court: "When they came to see me he never acted as though he was sitting next to a real person. After two years of treating Alan I came to the conclusion that his delusion is fixed and will sadly never go away."

Mr Davies sued the other driver, Thomas Williams, 55, for loss of earnings and damages. Mr Williams, from Aber-tillery, near Newport, admitted liability for the crash but denied causing the psychiatric problems. After Mr Davies's case was put in court, Mr Williams's insurance company offered £130,000 plus costs.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay said: "This is a sensible conclusion. It has been a tragic case but the right outcome has been reached."

The couple declined to comment as they left court, walking several feet apart. Capgras Syndrome is named after one of two French doctors who identified it in the 1920s. It can be brought on by severe depressive illness or a head injury. A leading authority, the psychiatrist Dr David Enoch, said: "It is one of the rarest psychiatric illnesses in the world. The victim is usually a man who is under the delusion that his wife is a double."



Alan Davies and his wife, whom he calls Christine II

£135,000 for mechanic frightened by police

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A CAR mechanic has been unable to face work since the day he emerged from beneath the vehicle he was working on to be confronted by eight policemen pointing guns at him.

Graham Parker was awarded £135,000 compensation against Hampshire police yesterday. He was not in court to hear the award because he had suffered a panic attack and gone home.

Salisbury Crown Court was told that Mr Parker, 35, from Portsmouth, had suffered post-traumatic stress since the incident in 1993 when police, mistakenly believing him to be an armed criminal, surrounded him outside his house as he repaired a car that had been linked to two firearms incidents in Liverpool.

At an earlier hearing Mr Parker said: "I saw eight guns pointing at me. I heard a double click. I thought: 'I'm dead.'"

Hampshire police, who are to appeal, claimed Mr Parker had exaggerated his problems. A spokeswoman said: "There is no evidence that he cannot tolerate being in other working environments."

Health officers found meal hard to swallow

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES, WEST OF ENGLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE banquet laid on by a hotel for environmental health officers left them distinctly unimpressed. The next day the Webbsington Hotel, near Weston-super-Mare, was raided by council inspectors who reported it for breaching hygiene regulations.

The 260 officials from around Britain had expected a feast that would be the highlight of a conference on air quality held by the National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection. First they were told the chef had forgotten to take the salmon mousse out of the freezer and there would be no starter. When the main course arrived they refused to eat it. They complained about the wine and that the service was poor. When the time came to pay the bill they refused.

The embarrassed host, Piers Furlong, chief environmental health officer with the local Sedgemoor District Council in Somerset, said: "The meal was a disaster. The salmon mousse never arrived because it was still frozen. The

main course was appalling — I couldn't eat it, and the wine was not very nice. It was extremely disappointing for premises of that standard. It's a shame because I have had some very good meals there."

Mr Furlong says the next day's inspection was coincidental, a claim the hotel's manager, Sanjay Kantaria, finds as hard to swallow as frozen salmon mousse. Mr Kantaria said: "It was surprising they sent two inspectors instead of the normal one and the inspection took four hours instead of the normal 20 minutes."

The hotel has agreed to waive the bill and Mr Kantaria said: "We admit that a junior chef made a mistake which meant we could not serve a starter but we acted responsibly in not serving something which could have been a health risk. There was no problem with the wine or service."

Sedgemoor's environment committee has recommended that the hotel be cautioned for the faults. The hotel's solicitor said that these were minor and had soon been corrected.



Fake fur and hipsters: Dolce e Gabanna are tired of creating everyday wear

Kitsch and colour collide on the Milanese catwalk

Lisa Armstrong sees Dolce e Gabanna present a tongue-in-cheek show, complete with Day-Glo coats and lime python boots, designed to surprise rather than sell



THE chilly Milanese rain beat down on a tungsten-lit marquee that had been erected a couple of days earlier in the courtyard of the Via San Damiano headquarters of the fashion designers Dolce e Gabanna. Scores of crimson and pale coral roses bloomed round ponds filled with goldfish and lit with flickering church candles. A rustic scene of artfully chipped chairs and tables set with Parmesan and loaves rested mid-catwalk, bunches of grapes drooped atmospherically about the place.

The scene was Sicily. Domenico Dolce's birthplace and the source of much of the duo's creative impetus. The time was the feast day of Madonna — Madonna, Mother of Christ that is, though it could have just as easily been the day.

Dolce e Gabanna's Sicily is part Fellini, part Roberto Rossellini and part Carry On, hence the sheer manilla cloaks worn over semi-transparent leggings (something of a trend, worryingly) in the show's finale. Hence too, the hipster "peasant" skirts, fashioned from nylon shaggy fur, and the roughly finished cropped sheepskin jackets worn with very low-cut, beaded hipster capris.

It is all deliciously tongue in cheek and some of it is no doubt destined to end up in a fashion museum as a monument to late 20th century kitsch. How much of it will sell is another, probably irrelevant, question since so much

of the designers' turnover is fuelled by accessories, scent and pictures of Madonna the diva in their frocks.

The heavily beaded fluorescent yellow plastic mini raincoat, a beaded orange plastic belt doubling as a skirt, and the lime python boots with mirrored heels ("so you can sit down and put your make-up on while staring at your heels") were particularly fine examples of fashion as a photo-op — and to hell with the dreary business of making clothes women can wear every day.

Beyond the neon colours, the chunky multicoloured coats and jackets that were made from goat that had been made to look like monkey hair, were some dazzling pieces. Beaded capris and belts will tempt the rock star brigade while the long, Day-Glo coats with bracelet sleeves that were worn over those leggings will look rather elegant when they are made up in the inevitable black.

Before they unveiled their catwalk collection yesterday, Stefano Gabanna, 39, and Domenico Dolce, 41, announced that they were becoming tired of the fashion system, which they declared onerous and oppressive. Those addicted to the pair's inimitable brand of corsetry-dressing will be relieved to know, however, that the length of their show (which comprised 150 outfits) suggested they were not thinking of shaking off their shackles any time too soon.

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Universities offered cash bait for poorer students

Budget increase will provide
thousands more places in higher
education, reports John O'Leary

UNIVERSITIES are to receive a 5 per cent "premium" for every student they recruit from poor areas to try to ensure that an extra 45,000 higher-education places go to groups under-represented on campuses.

A £75 million budget increase has enabled the Higher Education Funding Council for England to exceed the Government's plans to increase the number of students. Most of the new places will be on sub-degree courses, largely in further education colleges.

A £20 million fund has been set aside to broaden the range of people going into higher education. Students from under-privileged homes are the priority but the aim is also to increase the number of part-time and mature students.

The council has surveyed the postcode of every full-time student and given some univer-

sities more than £400,000 as an incentive to attract students from poor areas. Of the 76 universities, Derby, Huddersfield, Luton, Sunderland and Staffordshire will benefit most from the "premium". Even Oxford and Cambridge, which attract a high proportion of students from affluent homes, will receive about £150,000 each.

As a result of changes to the Oxford funding system, the funding council's budget of £4.26 billion for 1999-2000 includes £36 million previously paid direct to the Oxford and Cambridge colleges. Extra funds to reward high-quality work and to maintain historic buildings have helped to ensure that both of the ancient universities receive a funding increase this year close to the rate of inflation.

University College London and Luton University will re-

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SMALLEST INCREASES	
Exeter	0.5
Middlesbrough	0.5
Queen Mary & Westfield	0.5
Sheffield Hallam	0.5
Birmingham	0.5
Bath	1.0
Birkbeck College London	1.0
Open University	1.3
Warwick	1.4
York	1.4

University College London: biggest budget increase

ceive the biggest year-on-year rise under the settlements announced yesterday. Exeter University and Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, which had poor research assessments, and Middlesex and Thames Valley universi-

ties, which failed to meet last year's recruitment targets, receive the lowest settlement. The settlement for Thames Valley, whose vice-chancellor resigned after a critical inspection report, is conditional on the submission later this

month of a plan to tackle academic and financial problems. Brian Rinder, the funding council's chief executive, said that extra money would be available to tackle previous underinvestment in university buildings and equipment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Divers may have been garrotted

A British deep-sea diver, believed drowned in the Persian Gulf may have been executed in a double murder. Robert Glazard, 28, and his New Zealand colleague Aaron Harper were found in the sea in January, two weeks after they went missing from their ship off Dubai. At the time the authorities made no mention of possible foul play but when the bodies were returned to their native countries, pathologists discovered both men had throat injuries consistent with having been garrotted.

At an inquest in Rochdale, Mr Glazard's home town, police said murder squad detectives would fly to the Gulf to make further inquiries. The inquest was adjourned.

Suspect released

The last of five people questioned in the past week by Irish detectives investigating the Omagh bombing has been freed. He was released without charge after three days' interrogation at Monaghan police station.

Arctic ice thins

Parts of the Greenland ice sheet are thinning by more than a metre each year, NASA scientists have found. They believe that the ice is sliding increasingly quickly into the sea, causing a faster rise in sea levels than melting alone.

Ferry holed

The *Stena Explorer*, ferrying more than 300 people and 70 cars from Anglesey to Dun Laoghaire, was believed to have been holed below the waterline when it hit a pier wall while attempting to dock in Ireland. No-one was hurt.

Pedigrees forged

A Lincolnshire dog breeder sold dogs that he falsely claimed had Kennel Club pedigrees. Jill Allen, who admitted forgery and trying to obtain money by deception, was jailed at Nottingham Crown Court pending sentencing.

Murder charge

A man has appeared before Loughborough magistrates charged with murdering Rachel Glenn, 15, whose body was found in Charnwood Water, Leicestershire. Anthony Holland, 21, of no fixed abode, was remanded in custody.

Licence refused

A former racing driver who lost an arm in a crash has failed to convince magistrates in Swindon that he is fit to drive. Donald Day, 64, who steers with his knees while changing gear, was appealing against the revocation of his licence.

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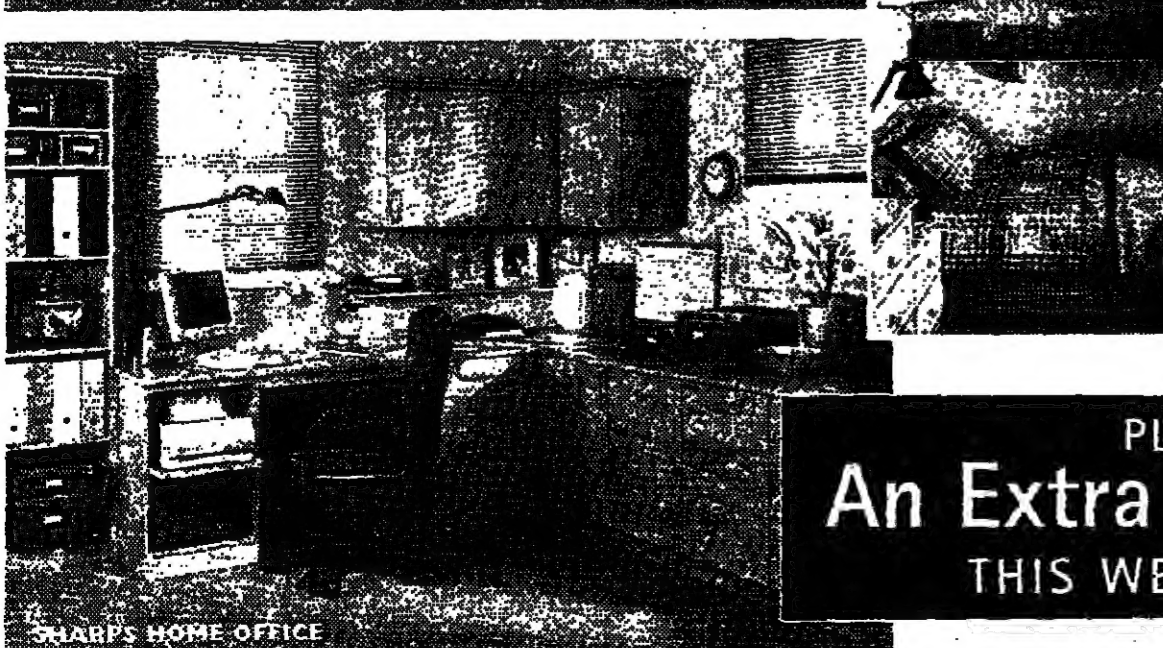
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Giant body to head sale of the millennium

THE 90ft body that will dominate the Millennium Dome is to be the prize lot in a huge sale of the exhibition's contents when it closes at the end of 2000.

Theme parks, museums and those who have everything are expected to bid in excess of £10 million for the giant sculpture of a man and woman embracing, which houses the Body Zone. The exhibit, which is as tall as Nelson's Column, features an interactive tour of bodily functions from heartbeats to hangovers.

The sculpture could be sold abroad or to a private individual who would be under no obligation to open it to the public, even though it is part-funded by lottery money. The successful bidder will have to invest further in a building to house it: the body, designed by Nigel Coates and made of glass-reinforced concrete, is not weather-proof.

Other exhibits, such as the Mind Zone designed by Zaha Hadid, and the Spirit Level, which has attracted controversy for its lack of Christian content, will also be for sale. Only two zones will not be available: the rights to the Mobility and Communication zones will be retained by their sponsors, Ford and BT, though both are likely to remain on public view.

The Dome's attractions, including the central show, will cost £191 million out of its total budget of £758 million, with £400 million coming from the National Lottery.

The New Millennium Experience Company (NMEC) will not say how much is being spent on individual zones but the Body Zone is understood to be one of the more expensive at more than £10 million.

"All the assets of NMEC will be up for sale," a spokesman for the company said. "Art galleries or museums will

All the Dome's contents can be bought at the end of next year, reports Mark Henderson

be able to acquire internationally famous icons of cultural value."

NMEC plans to sell the contents individually and it is not envisaged that any will remain within the Dome. The future of the Dome itself, which cost £300 million to build, will be decided by an international competition launched yesterday by Lord Falconer of Thoroton, the Government's shareholder in NMEC. More than 1,000 companies have been invited to make bids and the final decision will be made next year. Early suggestions include a conference or shopping centre, a sports stadium, a theme park or a film studio.

There will be no reserve price but working accounts suggest that it will go for at least £50 million. It will not necessarily be sold to the highest bidder: the competition will take into account how proposals will contribute towards the regeneration of the Greenwich peninsula.

Greenwich Council will also have to grant planning permission for the new use, following a full public consultation. Permission was granted for the Dome itself on the understanding that it would be environmentally friendly; the ban on car parking was one condition.

Lord Falconer said: "We want a fitting use for the Dome that preserves its design integrity, in keeping with

its role as a centrepiece of the millennium celebrations. We are determined that the Dome should not be a one-year wonder."

The Government is more concerned with ensuring that the Dome proves an appropriate legacy for the millennium than recouping its building costs, he said. With maintenance work every 25 years, it could last "for generations".

The money raised will be divided between English Partnerships, the Government regeneration agency that owns the site on which the Dome is built, and NMEC. If NMEC's share of the cash brings it into surplus, that money will be handed to the Millennium Commission to distribute in its normal way, while money paid to English Partnerships will replace part of its grant from the Treasury.



Lord Falconer of Thoroton said yesterday that maintenance work every 25 years could ensure the Millennium Dome could last "for generations".

HUMAN CLONING NOW A REALITY?



The Body Zone is expected to go on sale for £10 million

Australia turns down day of fame in Dome

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

IN A gesture that would make Barry Humphries's alter ego, Sir Les Patterson, drool, Australia has declined the offer of a day in the Millennium Dome to showcase its arts, history and civilisation.

The Australians have informed the exhibition organisers that it would take at least two days to do justice to their long list of cultural achievements.

A nation a day is being invited to Greenwich as part of the "Our Town's Story" exhibition, which is being sponsored by McDonald's, the hamburger restaurant chain.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has assigned a civil servant to work with the organisers, the New Millennium Experience Company, to persuade countries to join in.

South Africa, the United States, France, Canada and Japan have so far said they would like join the storytellers in the Dome, on what will be

called the "World Stage". So far 199 of the 209 local education authorities in the United Kingdom have signed up to send a delegation.

The £50 million National Programme for the millennium exhibition is being launched today by Michael Grade, the chairman of the Dome's creative review group. A new initiative, Reach for the Sky, aimed at helping teenagers to make career choices for the next millennium, is being announced, with sponsorship from the broadcaster BSkyB. It will give 1,200 people aged 14 to 16 the chance of four days intensive work experience in science and technology, the environment, journalism, sport, entertainment or the community.

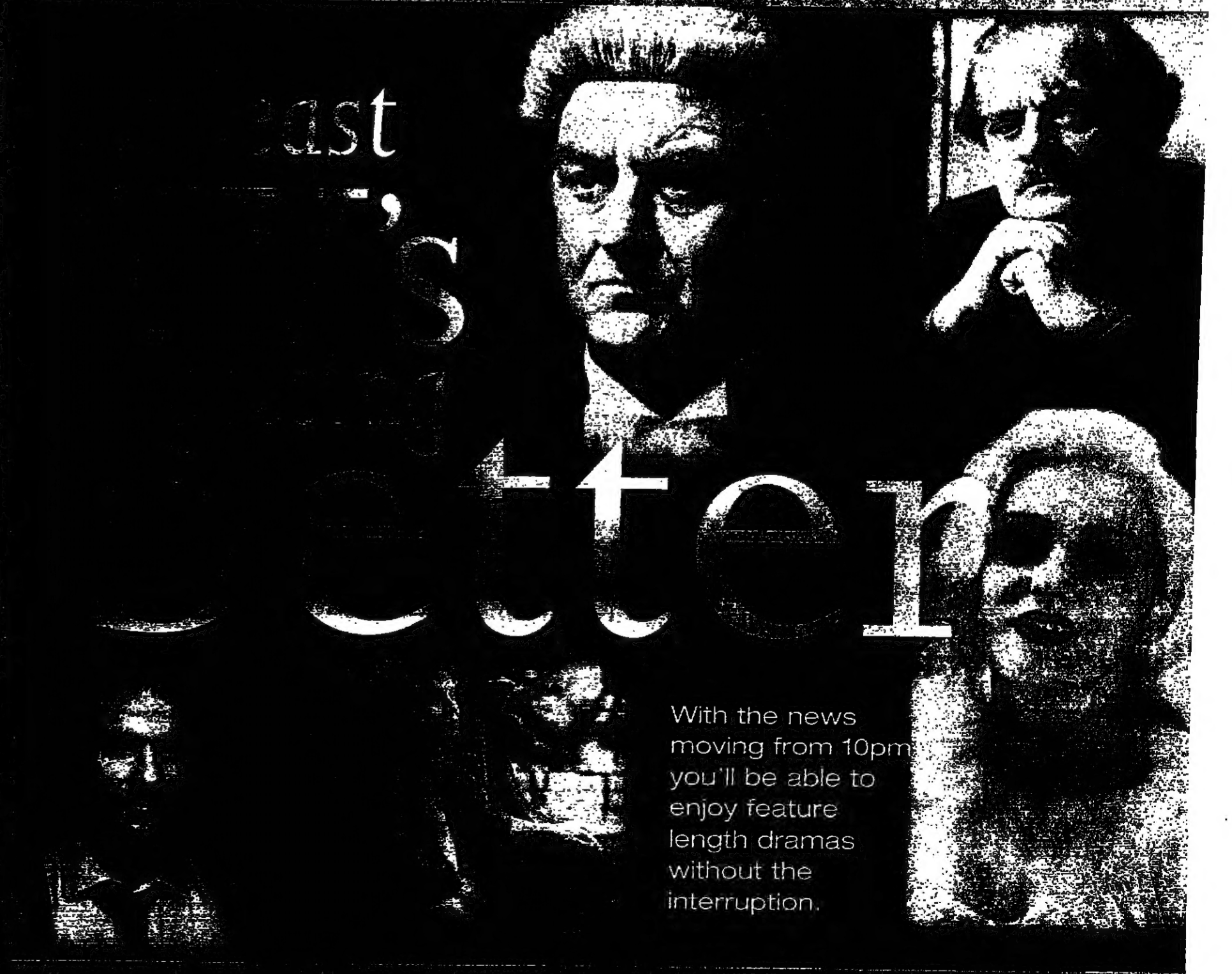
Other elements of the National Programme include FutureTalk, SchoolNet 2000 and the National Skills Festival. The organisers claim everyone can take part.

Children can get involved by joining the 6,000 schools that have already registered to enter the "Voices of Promise" contest to compose a song for the millennium. They can also join the £3,000 schools involved in the Tesco SchoolNet 2000 Internet "Domesday Book", which will go live in the Dome next year.

Everybody over the age of nine can get a free e-mail address from BT as part of the FutureTalk initiative, which aims to improve communication skills. Everyone can also contribute to their community's "Our Town's Story".



Patterson will miss out on cultural opportunity



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'Peace will not come. There's evil out there'

TEN weeks after loyalist gunmen murdered her 26-year-old son, Ann Trainor voted Yes in the referendum on the Good Friday peace accord in the hope that no other families would have to suffer. She would not vote that way now. "I will never vote again, never," she said yesterday.

Since the referendum, 243 terrorists have been released from prison but not one gun has been surrendered by the main paramilitaries and there has been no end to the violence with which they own and control their communities. The accord has been paralysed for months by the IRA's refusal to disarm and the Unionists' refusal to admit Sinn Féin to government until it does.

The prisoner releases were "the hardest thing to take", Mrs Trainor said. The paramilitaries were giving nothing in return. "They will not give up their arms, neither the loyalists nor the IRA. We would all love peace but I don't think there'll ever be peace. There's an awful evil out there."

Her son Damian, a Catholic, and his best friend, Philip Allen, 34, a Protestant, died a year ago this week when two masked gunmen burst into the Railway Bar around the corner from Mrs Trainor's house

A year after their sons were shot, two women regret support for Ulster accord, reports Martin Fletcher

In the Co Armagh village of Poyntzpass, they ordered the seven customers to lie down and opened fire. On Wednesday night the villagers packed into St Joseph's church for a memorial service but "the pain will never get easier", said Mrs Trainor, who visits her son's grave daily.

Revelation over the atrocity spurred the Province's politicians to produce the peace accord but Mr Allen's mother, Ethel, who lives opposite the bar, says she too wishes she had voted No because she "can't stand to see the prisoners released early".

Both women have particular reason for finding the releases abhorrent. If the men charged with their sons' murders are convicted at their imminent trial, they will qualify for early release after two

years. More worrying for the Government is that a clear majority of Unionists now share the disillusionment with barely a month for resolving deadlock over decommissioning. In a BBC poll, 41 per cent of Unionists support the accord, down from an estimated 55 per cent in the referendum. Less than a third would support David Trimble, the First Minister, if he formed an executive with Sinn Féin without decommissioning.

The Government has abandoned hope of transferring power to a new executive next Wednesday. Attention is instead shifting to St Patrick's Day celebrations in Washington on March 17, when President Clinton will meet party leaders individually. He is expected to tell Gerry Adams and Mr Trimble that the Province will pay a heavy price in lost investment and support if the accord collapses.

Mr Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, would become intensely involved in the search for a solution by the month's end. Officials shudder at the idea of this Good Friday arriving with the accord still unfulfilled. There will be even less chance of reaching a compromise with the approaching marching season



Ann Trainor visits the grave of her son, whose death spurred the accord. If the accused men are convicted, they will qualify for release in two years

and the campaign for June's Euro elections which Ian Paisley will turn into a second referendum. Ireland's referendum vote to abolish its constitutional claim to Northern Ireland lapses on May 22 if the ac-

cord is unimplemented. At the end of this month Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, may force the issue by effectively instructing the Assembly to form the executive. She published draft proce-

dures on Tuesday that provide for a three-hour adjournment between the Assembly convening and the parties nominating their ministers to allow for a gesture from the IRA. That way, decommissioning and

the executive's formation could happen virtually simultaneously and neither side could claim to have "won". Without such a gesture, Mr Trimble would almost certainly seek Sinn Féin's expulsion

from the Assembly on the grounds that it was still wedded to violence. The nationalist SDLP would reject that; in which case Mr Trimble would probably demand a review of the accord's implementation.

Irish DPP to challenge IRA killers' sentences

BY AUDREY MAGER, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND'S Director of Public Prosecutions is to challenge the sentences handed down to the Brixton prison escapee Pearce McCauley and another senior IRA member for killing a Garda.

Eamonn Barnes has lodged an appeal against the 14-year sentences handed down after McCauley and Kevin Walsh pleaded guilty last month to the manslaughter of Jerry McCabe, a detective Garda shot during a bungled IRA raid on a post office van in Adare, Co Limerick, in 1996.

McCauley, Walsh and two other men were originally charged with capital murder, which carries a mandatory 40-year sentence. But when key witnesses refused to testify, Mr Barnes was forced to reduce the charge to manslaughter.

The maximum sentence for manslaughter in Ireland is life imprisonment but three

judges in the Special Criminal Court declined to impose it. Mr Barnes served papers on McCauley, 34, and Walsh, 42, this week, telling them of his decision to take their sentences to the Court of Criminal Appeal. The case is expected to be heard after Easter.

Mr Barnes does not believe that the judges sufficiently considered the central role played by the pair in the killing of Mr McCabe, who died in the hall of bullets from a Kalashnikov rifle fired into the unmarked police car accompanying the post office van.

McCauley and Walsh, who is believed by Gardaí to have fired the rifle, were also given concurrent sentences for maliciously wounding Detective Garda Ben O'Sullivan and for possession of firearms with intent to commit a robbery.

But sources said that Mr Barnes was particularly unhappy that the judges did not

penalise McCauley, from Strabane, Co Tyrone, for killing McCabe while on bail pending an extradition hearing. McCauley is wanted in Britain following his 1991 escape from Brixton prison while on remand for allegedly conspiring to murder.

He fled to Ireland, where he was arrested in 1993 and sentenced to seven years in jail for possessing a gun and ammunition. He was freed in 1995 as part of the early release scheme after the first IRA ceasefire but was re-arrested within seconds on a British extradition warrant. He jumped bail while awaiting extradition proceedings and linked up with Walsh's IRA unit in Munster.

Irish government sources insisted yesterday that Mr Barnes was acting independently and not under the direction of Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, or John O'Donoghue, the Justice Minister.

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Vanessa staff sacked over fake guests

By ELIZABETH JUDGE

THE BBC has sacked three members of staff from *The Vanessa Show* over allegations that fake guests appeared on the programme.

A fourth received a formal warning and was moved to another department and a freelance worker had his contract terminated as a result of a three-week investigation.

The daytime talk show hosted by Vanessa Feltz features traumatised guests making emotional confessions. It has been under attack since reports last month alleged that researchers had booked actors from a London agency to pose as members of the public.

A programme on domestic violence featured a "battered wife" who was really an unmarried actress and two strippers who had never met were recruited to play feuding sisters. A London businessman claimed that he was paid £100 for each guest he supplied to the show.

The BBC immediately suspended five members of the team, two producers and a researcher and launched an investigation.

The corporation also introduced new measures to stop fake guests appearing on chat shows. Guests must now provide identification and sign a declaration that states that their contribution will be "entirely honest and truthful".

A BBC spokeswoman said:



Feltz: her show has come under attack

"The investigation has not uncovered any evidence to prove that staff knowingly booked fake guests." She added that no other members of the *Vanessa* team would be questioned. The staff are not being named because they have 14 days to appeal against the decision.

A number of "confessional" shows and documentaries have recently been exposed as fake. Bogus guests have also appeared on ITV's rival programme *Trisha*.

Last week Channel 4 was fined £150,000 by the Independent Television Commission because it broadcast a documentary about young rent boys in which key scenes were faked. In *Too Much Too Young: Chicks* members of the production team posed as rent boys and their clients in three scenes. Channel 4 admitted that a "deliberate and organised deception took place".

Another Channel 4 programme, *Daddy's Girl*, was not shown after it emerged that the subjects had lied about their relationship.

Carlton was fined £2 million in January for showing *The Connection*, a documentary about the Colombian drugs trade that contained fake scenes.

The Independent Television Commission has written to independent and satellite broadcasters demanding reassurances about the authenticity of confessional shows.

Last week, following the claims about *The Vanessa Show*, the BBC governors issued a statement expressing serious concerns about standards. "The board will not tolerate fakes masquerading as fact," they said.



Kathlene Shafer-Imhoff fled after being arrested on a theft charge in South Wales



Alexis and Kathlene: said to believe their father is dead

Hunt for American mother and girls

A JUDGE asked the public yesterday to help to find an American mother who was

allegedly telling them their father had died in an accident.

Kathlene Shafer-Imhoff was divorced from her husband, Lars, a year ago. She

fled with Alexis, 6, and Kathlene, 5, after a visit in July.

Lawyers for Mr Imhoff sought help in Britain because

his former wife was arrested on a charge of theft in Newport, South Wales, in January. She disappeared afterwards.

Sean McNally, solicitor for the father, said Mrs Shafer-

Imhoff was a "Scarlet Pimpernel who uses disguise to avoid

capture". He said the 34-year-old secretary may be travelling with her mother, Lonna Shafer, a businesswoman based in Switzerland. Mrs Shafer-Imhoff also uses the names Kathlene Anderson and Ashley Anderson.

Mr Imhoff, 38, a welder from North Dakota, has custody of the girls. At the High Court yesterday Mr Justice

Summer appealed for the public to watch out for them. Mr McNally said: "They do not attend school to our knowledge. They lead a peripatetic life with a mother who has told them their father is dead."

Anyone with information is asked to contact 0171 242 2877 or 0171 936 6000.

Reith kept 'hate list' in his head

By ROBIN YOUNG

LORD REITH, the first Director-General of the BBC, had a mental hate list that included Winston Churchill, Earl Mountbatten, Field Marshal Montgomery and the philosopher Bertrand Russell; his daughter has disclosed.

Reith's personal animosities are detailed by Marisa Leishman in an entry in *The Dictionary of Scottish Biography*. Mrs Leishman describes her father as an impossible man who was highly ambitious and kept a mental list of hatreds born in rivalries going back to the early days of the BBC.

Churchill clashed with Reith, head of the corporation from 1927 to 1938, over how the BBC organised its coverage. Though Reith was given minis-

terial posts during the war years, he felt that the Prime Minister was unresponsive and unwelcoming towards him.

Of the other names on her father's hate list, Mrs Leishman said yesterday: "It was just a clash of very big personalities and rivalries." There was, she insisted, no vendetta against those on the list. "My father was a fair man and it was very much a personal stance."

Mrs Leishman said that Lord Reith, who died aged 81 in 1971, was obsessed with work at the expense of his family. "You didn't converse with Lord Reith. You listened respectfully, trying from time to time to poke in your bit - only to feel that it hadn't actually lodged anywhere."

FRANKENSTEIN FOODS: RISKS UNKNOWN?

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Iraq sets deadly missile ambush for allied pilots

Saddam's jets trying to lure no-fly zone patrols over hidden Sam and rocket sites, writes Michael Evans

IRAQI fighter pilots are trying to lure British and American aircraft over hidden surface-to-air missile sites as part of the daily confrontations now taking place over northern and southern Iraq, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, said yesterday.

Mr Robertson highlighted the dangers which confronted the British and American pilots, as both London and Washington faced condemnation from Iraq, China and Russia for waging what has been called an "undeclared war" on Baghdad.

Since Operation Desert Fox in December, when American and British forces struck at Iraqi military targets over four days, every infringement by Iraqi aircraft in the no-fly zones and every attempt by Baghdad to shoot down patrolling coalition jets has been met with instant retaliation.

Yesterday Mr Robertson disclosed that in the past 11 weeks there had been 100 incursions into the no-fly zones by 150 Iraqi aircraft.

One of the aims of the Iraqi pilots, Mr Robertson said, was to try to draw British and American aircraft towards Sam missile sites as they turned round and headed off the no-fly zones.

He told *The Times*: "Saddam has moved a lot of Sam missile and anti-aircraft artillery batteries into southern and northern Iraq and the Ira-



Robertson: "Iraqis made 100 incursions in 11 weeks"

qi pilots are trying to lure our pilots into missile ambushes." Particularly in the north, the Iraqis have also installed huge Russian-made BM21 multiple rocket-launchers which were designed for surface-to-surface strikes. However, the Iraqis have been using them for anti-aircraft fire. Each one is capable of firing 40 210mm rockets in 20-second "ripples" over a range of about 12 miles.

Defence sources said that one of the results was that lethal rockets were coming down again and "hitting Saddam's own people".

Britain and the United States have denied that there is any secret war, insisting that every attack on Iraqi air defence sites and command and control facilities since

Desert Fox has been a response to provocation.

Speaking on the BBC Radio's *Today* programme, Mr Robertson said: "Saddam and the regime are trying to kill our pilots, and there have been 50 attempts and 50 threatening attempts on our pilots in the last 11 weeks."

With Baghdad engaged in a strategy of provocation, American and British aircraft have now attacked more air defence sites than during the four-day bombings of Operation Desert Fox.

To meet the increasing threat from Iraqi missile batteries, the rules of engagement have been changed to allow more flexibility in the choice of target, with the result that command and control and communications centres have also been hit. Mr Robertson announced the change in the Commons yesterday.

He also defended the American attack on an Iraqi oil pipeline to Turkey a few days ago. He said communications facilities had been targeted, but part of the pipeline was also located in the area.

Mohammed Said al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, claimed in a letter to the president of the United Nations Security Council that the Americans were trying to destroy Iraq's oil export capacity as part of a plan to destabilise the Baghdad regime.

China yesterday condemned the raids by the Americans and British, accusing them of increasing tensions. Turkey, which expressed concern about the damage to the pipeline, also urged all sides to end the stand-off.

In the largest strike since the renewed confrontations began, American F15Es dropped more than 30 2,000lb and 500lb laser-guided bombs on Iraqi communications sites, radio relay stations and anti-aircraft artillery facilities.

Even more significant in terms of power politics was the naming of a new chief of the royal court, traditionally the power behind the throne in the



Abdul-Raouf Rawabdeh, a confidant of King Hussein and now to be Prime Minister

Hussein's ally returns in new King's shake-up

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST
CORRESPONDENT

JORDAN'S untied new ruler, King Abdullah II, yesterday moved to stamp his mark on the running of the strategic desert kingdom with a number of key new appointments, including a Prime Minister and a chief of the royal court.

Diplomats in Amman said that the appointments, announced before the end of the official 40-day mourning period for King Hussein, showed that the new monarch was determined to promote those loyal to the late King and to himself, rather than officials regarded as in the camp of the recently deposed Crown Prince, his uncle, Hassan bin Talal.

In the shake-up, the Prime Minister appointed while Hassan was regent last August during the late King's illness, Fayed Tarawneh, was replaced by 60-year-old Abdul-Raouf Rawabdeh, a long-time proponent of King Hussein's liberal outlook, an experienced administrator and supporter of Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Even more significant in terms of power politics was the naming of a new chief of the royal court, traditionally the power behind the throne in the



King Abdullah, left, with Abdul-Karim al-Kabari

Jordanian hierarchy and of particular importance because of the 37-year-old King's youth and inexperience of world diplomacy and domestic politics.

The man appointed is the former Prime Minister, Abdul-Karim al-Kabari, known as a close confidant of the late King's widow, Queen Noor, an enemy of Hassan and a politician whose 1996-97 Government was renowned both for its criticism of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and its determination to press economic

reforms in the face of public protests.

Clashes with Prince Hassan were one reason for Mr Kabari's dismissal as Prime Minister, but at the time senior Jordanians predicted that, should Prince Hassan ever be bypassed, he would make a comeback.

Prince Hamzah, King Hussein's eldest son by the American-born Queen Noor, was named as heir in King Abdullah's first decree — as requested by the late King.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Cook heads for Primakov talks

Moscow: On the last leg of his three-day trip to Russia, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, sets off today for the Black Sea resort of Sochi, accompanied by Igor Ivanov, his Russian counterpart, for a meeting with Yevgeni Primakov, the Prime Minister, who interrupted his holiday for the talks (Aina Blundy writes). They are expected to discuss Russia's chances of receiving another much-needed instalment of IMF money and co-operation in Kosovo. Despite potential tension over Kosovo — Mr Cook said that he was confident Russia would be "an honoured partner" in any post-ceasefire implementation force — the Foreign Secretary's visit has been characterised by the vocabulary of friendship and "unity of intent".

Execution 'barbaric'

Bonn: Germany condemned Arizona's gas chamber execution of a German-born convicted murderer as barbaric and criticised America for ignoring international treaties. Herta and Paul Amirian, the Justice Minister, said she believed the execution of convicts like Walter LaGrand, 37, executed on Wednesday for killing a bank manager in 1982, was used to help US governors to win re-election. "It is barbaric and unworthy of a state based on the rule of law," she said. (Reuters)

China moves millions

Shanghai: China will move another two million people in a new wave of relocations to clear the way for the giant Three Gorges Dam along the Yangtze River, the state-owned news agency Xinhua reported. The first stage involving some 1.3 million people began last year and is still under way. There have been claims that corrupt officials have failed to distribute relocation funds. The dam, due for completion in 2009, will create a 350-mile-long lake. (AP)

War crime trial halted

Zagreb: Croatia's first war crimes trial relating to the Second World War was adjourned shortly after it opened yesterday when the defendant, a former concentration camp commander, Dinko Sakic, 77, right, was declared unfit to stand trial.



Doctors told the court that the blood flow in Mr Sakic's brain was obstructed and his condition was unstable. The trial will resume on March 15. (Reuters)

Afghan foes to meet

Islamabad: Afghanistan's Taliban militia and its opponents have agreed to hold peace talks next week in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, the United Nations special envoy, said. He urged the Afghan rivals to go to the talks with "a spirit of compromise and understanding, patience and a constructive approach". (Reuters)

Ming treasure found

A treasure trove of Ming Dynasty porcelain, jade and gold has been recovered after a three-month operation off the coast of Brunei (David Watts writes). The operation, using mini-sub and guarded by the Brunei Navy, yielded three or four boxes of treasure each day. There has so far been no word of the treasure coming on the market.



An F15E taking off from Turkey on a regular patrol

Simon Jenkins, page 22

Anwar lawyer wants police chief charged

By DAVID WATTS

THE Anwar Ibrahim defence team raised the stakes at the Malaysian inquiry into his beating yesterday by demanding that the former police chief who assaulted him be charged with attempted murder.

Noting that the police officer had "gone berserk", Karpal Singh, counsel for Mr Anwar, the former Deputy Prime Minister

and Finance Minister, told the royal commission: "If not for the intervention of the two officers [who pulled him off Mr Anwar] he may have gone to the extent of murder. Anwar was only a breath away from becoming Prime Minister. He may still be. But that is a different matter. I would recommend a charge of attempted murder on the part of [police chief] Tan Sri Rahim Noor."

The government forensic science expert who gave evidence at the inquiry last week has made clear that the blows Mr Anwar suffered could have been fatal. Mr Noor's counsel said there was no basis for a charge of attempted murder.

Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, Mr Anwar's wife, said yesterday that police had interrogated her in her home over her appearance at a weekend opposition rally.

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Reformers set for big triumph in Iran's local polls

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU

REFORMERS supporting President Khatami of Iran, including many women, appear set for a stunning victory in the Islamic Republic's first local elections, which have highlighted the waning influence of his hardline opponents. Moderates look certain to capture 13 of the 15 council seats in the capital, Tehran.

"This is a turning point for Iran," said Sadegh Samii, a British-educated publisher. The conservatives, who still control most centres of power, would have "to obey the people's choice", he added.

That remains to be seen, however. Despite his huge popular mandate, Mr Khatami's opponents have so far succeeded in slowing down the pace of his reforms and can be relied on to contest bitterly the erosion of their power.

Rubbing salt into the hardliners' wounds was the prominence of leading progressive candidates. The Tehran vote was headed by Abdullah Nouri, a key Khatami supporter and former Interior Minister who was impeached by the conservative-dominated parliament last year because of his support for greater social, political and cultural freedom. He is now well placed to take up the influential post as the Mayor of Tehran.

Hardliners even failed to take control of the holy city of Mashhad, a traditionally conservative bastion where reformists and independents were leading the vote.

The landmark election was about far more than filling seats on village, town and city councils. It was introduced by Mr Khatami to boost democracy at a grass-roots level and decentralise power that has been mainly in the hands of the clerical establishment since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Victory for the reformers will give them a strong power base from which to challenge the conservatives' hold on parliament in elections next year.

"This has set a precedent. People simply won't put up with hardliners attempting to vet moderate candidates as they have in the past," said a European diplomat.

A conservative screening body had attempted to block Mr Nouri and other prominent reformers from standing in last Friday's polls, but was overruled by the President.

The results, due to be finalised in the next few days, should also boost the role of women in Iranian society and politics. They led the polls in at least 20 cities, even though they made up just 5,000 of the 300,000 hopefuls contesting some 200,000 seats across the country.

Fatemeh Khatami, the President's 61-year-old sister, was the winner in the desert town of Ardekan, capturing nearly three times as many votes as the next candidate.

Third placed in Tehran, the most strongly contested city, was Jamil Khatami, a former adviser to Mr Khatami and the wife of the popular Culture Minister, Ayatollah Mohajerani, another *bête noire* of the old guard.

Proof of the determination of Mr Khatami's opponents to demonstrate their authority came just hours after the polls opened when they struck back by jailing Mohsen Kadivar, a leading liberal cleric close to the President.

His arrest on charges of slander and subversion caused uproar among reformists and led to street protests in his native town of Shiraz in the south of the country.



Khatami: his hardline foes will fight on bitterly

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Heroes of Iran's Islamic revolution are familiar symbols on the streets of Tehran

British car's Tehran twin rules the road

Iran relies on its Hillman Hunter, writes Michael Theodoulou in Tehran

For Westerners, Ayatollah Khomeini's star gazette is the most enduring symbol of the 20-year-old Islamic revolution, but for Tehran's motorists equally durable is the Paykan — a locally produced identical twin of Britain's long-forgotten Hillman Hunter.

Seven out of ten cars on the congested streets of the Iranian capital are Paykans, while once popular Chevrolets, Pontiacs and other chrome-bumpered hulks of Midwestern American steel have long gone the way of the Shah.

The Paykan's horse and chariot emblem is as immediately recognisable in Iran as the silver lady of a Rolls-Royce in Britain. There the comparison ends the Paykan is to Iranians what the Trabant was to the East Germans, a basic but affordable means of transport.

Beige and cream appear the most exciting colours on offer, while working seatbelts are regarded as an unnecessary luxury by Tehran's steely-nerved taxi drivers. Paykan owners have a love-hate relationship with their cars, sometimes they accuse them of being outdated and uncool, but all are fiercely proud of the plucky vehicle

whose character more than compensates for a lack of sex appeal. "I'll tell you why I prefer my Paykan to a Chevrolet," said Ali Reza, a bearded cable whose years negotiating Tehran's chaotic streets have left him looking as grizzled as his 15-year-old Paykan is battered. "You can't get spare parts for a Chevrolet. But you can go to the smallest village in the middle of nowhere and a mechanic will know how to fix a Paykan."

Certainly the Paykan — it means "arrow" in Persian — is something of a success story for Iranian industry, which has worked hard to achieve self-sufficiency in the face of years of international isolation. "The one who has God with him is never alone," reads a sign in an assembly plant west of Tehran that produced 110,000 cars last year.

Some, less charitably, attribute the Paykan's success to

a virtual ban on car imports that protects local production and conserves foreign currency. The locally assembled Peugeot 405s are snazzier, but three times the price.

Iran's state-owned Khodro Company began assembling the Paykan in 1967 from kits supplied by Hillman's parent company in Britain, the long defunct Rootes Motor Company, later taken over by Chrysler UK. When that, in turn, was absorbed by Peugeot in 1989, Iran bought the British company's equipment and began producing the Paykan virtually on its own.

The car was due to be replaced by a more advanced model in 1978, but the Islamic revolution, which marked its 20th anniversary this week, gave it a new lease of life as international investment for joint ventures dried up.

However, the winds of change have caught up with the Paykan. It is to be phased out of production gradually as a more powerful and aerodynamic model comes on to the market in the next 18 months.

Yet with two million devoted owners, the old Paykan will be seen on streets here well into the new millennium.

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UGANDA MASSACRE

Yard joins FBI in the hunt for jungle killers

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT,
AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THREE Scotland Yard detectives flew to Kampala last night to help the Ugandan authorities to hunt for the Rwanda rebel gang who killed four British tourists.

The team is being led by Detective Superintendent Ken Woodward, a senior officer with the Yard's Organised Crime Unit. The team will work with Ugandan police and army units and liaise with an FBI unit which was sent out earlier in the week.

The operation has been organised by the Foreign Office, which will foot the bill. The trip was agreed after discussions between Kampala and London and earlier this week the Uganda High Commission issued visas in readiness for the team.

Detective Superintendent Woodward was head of the murder and serious crime squad covering the centre of London. He recently transferred to the Yard as one of the senior officers in the Organised Crime Unit which provides officers for investigations abroad as well as for major cases in London. The other two officers have not been

named. The team will advise the Ugandans on how to uncover useful evidence at the scenes of the killings and use it for possible prosecutions or identifying the killers. They may also help in taking statements from survivors and will act as co-ordinators in Britain for any Ugandan trials.

Survivors of the attack may be key witnesses if the Ugandans manage to track down the gang and bring them back for a trial. British forensic science facilities could also be used to test evidence such as bullets, DNA traces and fibres. British laboratories are regarded as world leaders in many forensic science operations.

The speed with which the FBI sent two agents to help to investigate the murders in Uganda was the first test of its rapid response policy set up after the twin embassy bombings in East Africa last August. The pair arrived in Kampala on Wednesday, two days after eight foreign tourists were hacked to death by Rwandan rebels. The agents were described by a US government official as specialists in terrorist kidnappings.

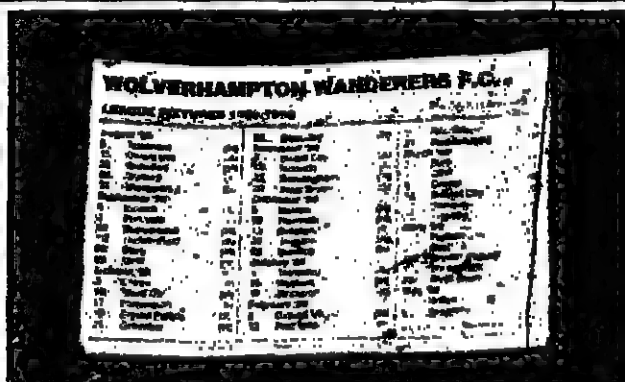
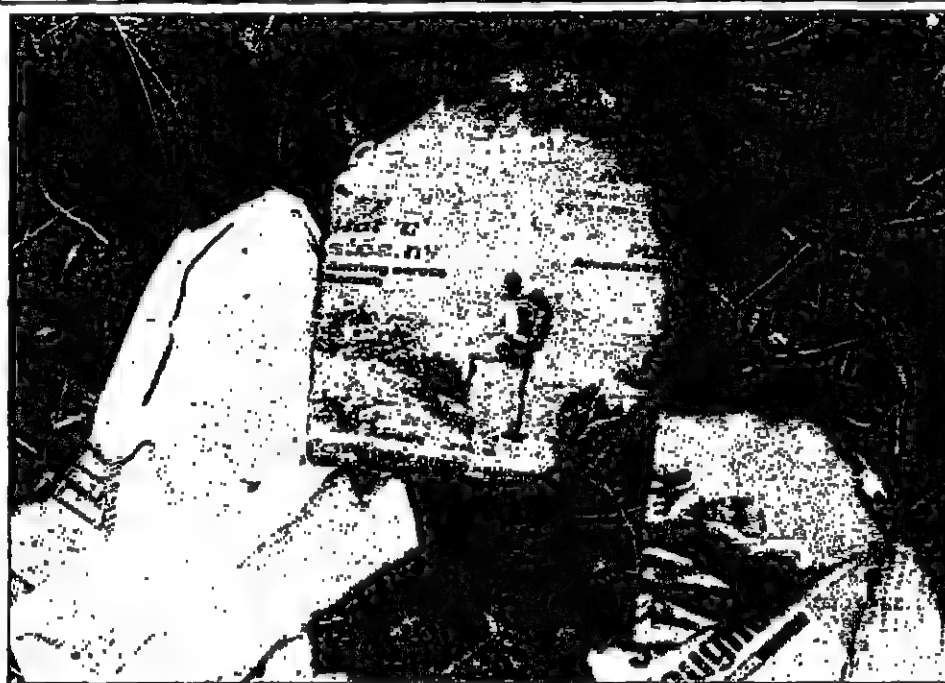
The lessons of the East African bombings, in which some 240 people died, were that the FBI needed more flexibility and expertise to react to acts of terror against American citizens anywhere. The FBI found there were delays in arranging inoculations for some agents, not to mention passports. There was a scramble to organize forensic science specialists from FBI laboratories.

The FBI needed specialists on terrorist intelligence to help

the overwhelmed Kenyan and Tanzanian police, as well as experts to handle secure communications. Eventually, the FBI had 500 agents on the ground in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam. Their presence contributed significantly to finding some of the alleged terrorists who were swiftly extradited to America for trial and to identifying the terrorist network of Osama bin Laden as being responsible for the bombings.

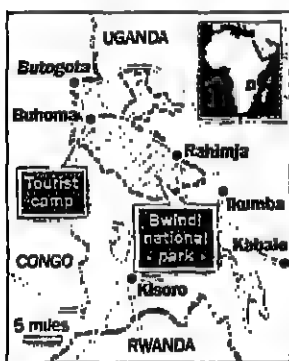
Bill Carter, an FBI spokesman, said yesterday that the agency's national security division had set up the rapid deployment teams as a counter-terrorism measure.

"They are prepared to respond within hours to be sent anywhere in the world to investigate crimes that take place against American citizens and others," Mr Carter said. "We have learnt the lessons of East Africa."



Ugandan troops, top, on patrol near Bahoma tourist camp in the Bwindi National Park, also known as the Impenetrable Forest. Yesterday the three tourists, competitors in a footrace in a steep-sided valley crowded with thick forest, still showed the signs of Monday's attack by Rwandan rebels. Among the blackened wrecks of four vehicles were scattered belongings and pieces of paper, including a Wolverhampton Wanderers fixture list, above, and scorched travel literature, left.

Photographs: Richard Pohl



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Chinese call on leaders to atone for massacre

TEN years after the violent suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square, relatives and friends of those killed or injured have petitioned the National People's Congress to apologise for the crackdown.

The defiant challenge to the state security apparatus was timed to coincide with the annual session of China's rubber-stamp parliament which was preparing to meet today amid tight security.

The ghost of the Tiananmen massacre in Beijing on June 4, 1989, still haunts Chinese leaders even as they ponder widespread unrest and nationwide grumbling over official corruption and millions of job losses in state-run industries.

The 20 petitioners, one of whom is Professor Ding Zelin, whose 17-year-old son was shot dead when the People's Liberation Army crushed the student protest, wrote: "As survivors of that event, we — the injured, disabled and families of those killed — have lived through ten years of torment."

In a telephone interview with *The Times* yesterday, Professor Ding said that her home was surrounded by security men and that she was told to return indoors. She expects she will not be allowed out until the People's Congress session ends in ten days.

James Pringle reports on a growing public disillusion with Beijing's regime

President Jiang Zemin cracked down on dissent last year with long prison terms for those who set up a political party to challenge the Communist Party monopoly. He has promised to "resolutely nip in the bud" any sign of protest at a time of growing disaffection.

Mr Jiang and his Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji, the economy chief, are emphasising social stability, aware that China is afflicted with many of the same problems that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr Zhu is clearly worried that the Asian financial crisis is causing the economy to slow, with falling exports, declining growth in retail sales and, tellingly, slow growth in electricity consumption.

But in spite of this downturn it was predicted that defence spending would rise to record levels to compensate the People's Liberation Army for the loss of its widespread business interests ordered last year.

Diplomats believe that China's leaders are worried about the boldness of opposition to their rule as the party fails to deliver on its compact with the 1.3 billion population, after disastrous policies.

That compact is: "You let us rule, and we will let you prosper." One foreign diplomat here said: "Prosperity and laid-off workers are a contradiction in terms, and the political opposition — small though it is — is showing it cannot be browbeaten by stiff jail terms... The leadership is showing every sign of being afraid of the people."

Few here believe Beijing's claim that the economy grew 7.8 per cent last year, and ordinary Chinese for the first time openly express to foreigners their dismay about the Government and their future.

"There are so many unemployed that the leaders may soon be unemployed," said a mechanical engineer in Kunming, Yunnan, who had been laid off and was driving a taxi.

It is against this backdrop that it is impossible for China's leaders to forget the massacre. Tiananmen Square has been closed for "renovation" and is surrounded by a high blue fence which will not be removed until July, well after the sensitive tenth anniversary of the massacre.



AN INDONESIAN student is arrested by security forces during pitched battles in the streets of Jakarta yesterday, hours before a visit by Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. Clashes broke out after about 300 soldiers and police tried to block a

Jakarta riots mar Albright visit

march by some 2,000 students calling for President Habibie to step down. Student leaders later claimed that dozens of protesters and six photographers and journalists had been injured and 33 students had been arrested after troops waded into the crowd with batons.

The demonstration had started in the early afternoon with the students shouting "Revolution now" as they marched two miles from the Salemba Campus of the University of Indonesia to the centre of Jakarta.

The protesters were demanding that a transitional government be installed until elections could be held. (AFP)

Defeated Khmer Rouge enjoys profits of crime

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PALENG, CAMBODIA

THE surrender of the Khmer Rouge and the swearing of allegiance to the Phnom Penh Government have given the impression that the movement, responsible for killing 1.7 million, is fatally crippled. But analysts in the Cambodian capital fear that there might now be a Khmer Rouge Trojan horse in their midst.

Profiting from gem and logging concessions in their enclave near Thailand, the Khmer Rouge is amassing wealth which it refuses to share with the Government. One analyst said the Khmer Rouge of Pailin has not integrated the autonomous western region with the rest of the country, and has not handed over a single cent from timber or gem revenues. "If their interests are threatened, the reconstituted Khmer Rouge of Pailin could put up a good fight."

The fanatical political movement that regarded using toothbrushes as a capital

crime because of its bourgeois inference is now involved in mafia-style rackets. Brothels, karaoke joints and jungle casinos dot Pailin town.

Even as the worship of Mammon thrives — with the boom of discotheque music replacing the turgid anthems of hate — its rhetoric about defending the motherland remains unchanged. While the guerrilla group does appear to be seriously weakened, it has taken on a different identity, calling itself the Democratic National Union Movement.

Two of its most wanted leaders, former President Khieu Samphan, 67, and Nuon Chea, 71, live in palatial bungalows protected by a minefield. The two who wrote the blueprint for one of the century's most brutal regimes, defected in December and the Government is now awaiting a United Nations report on whether there is evidence to try them.

But in the interest of peace

that leaders such as King Norodom Sihanouk say the country desperately needs, they were given a tour by Hun Sen, the Prime Minister, and allowed to return to Pailin despite calls for their arrest. The Khmer Rouge says any trial must bring to book all those responsible, including America and Vietnam. The underlying threat is that, if only its leaders were "targeted," it would be war again.

"With so many former Khmer Rouge now in the army, in theory it would be possible to seize power," said one observer in Phnom Penh.

But to this correspondent, who has covered the brutal war in Cambodia, the best chance for peace is for the rank and file to acquire a taste of the best, and worst, of capitalism. Perhaps, once they have become used to using toothbrushes, it would be difficult to persuade the cadre to take up arms again.

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CLEAN SHEETS FINE LINEN WASH, £12.50
An alternative to hand-washing powder, this has a wonderful herby fragrance. It does not clean as quickly as normal washing powder but leaves clothes softer. Origins, from Harrods, John Lewis and Selfridges (0800-731 4039) 8/10



WHITE LINEN MIST, £19.95
This has a slightly disconcerting hint of gin when first sprayed on to sheets. But within minutes the aroma changes to the clean scent of freshly mown grass. Expensive though. The Cross, 141 Portland Road W11 (0171-727 6760) 9/10



LINEN LAVENDER WATER, £8.95
Lovely idea, beautifully presented. The water is used in an iron but the faint perfume fades rapidly once bed linen has cooled. L'Occitane, 237 Regent Street W1, and department stores (0171-290 1421) 4/10



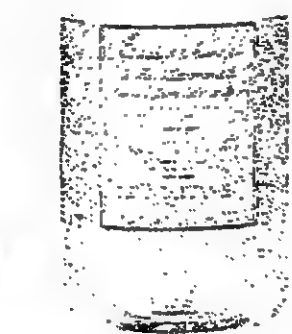
LINO NEL VENTO, £26
Spray before ironing bed linen, curtains and upholstery for a light, refreshing smell of lavender. Unfortunately, the fragrance doesn't last long. Jo Malone, 154 Walton Street SW3 (0171-581 1101) 6/10



LAVENDER WATER, £22
Stylish bottle, and it smells beautifully of lavender — until you iron with it. No scent left on linen at all. Margaret Howell, 24 Brooke Street W1 (0171-495 4888) 4/10



LAUNDRY DELICATE, £9
This hand-wash leaves linen refreshed and smelling divine. The only down side is that you don't get much of it. Tocco, available at Harvey Nichols Knightsbridge (0171-235 5000) 8/10



CUTTING EDGE

JANE SHILLING

Drawstring pants are back. And if you want to avoid looking like a puppet, loosen up and let them hang around your navel

There is a generation of women for whom mention of the word drawstring conjures a host of images, none of them compatible with high fashion. This is, roughly speaking, the generation that was reared on a television diet of Andy Pandy — that strange, androgynous puppet who jerked about dressed in a shapeless Pierrot costume fastened at the neck, wrist and ankle with stiff, drawstring-tied frills. The same generation tends to have been educated at schools where domestic science departments were run by brisk, efficient women whose idea of a proper preparation for married life was a light hand with a Victoria sandwich and the ability to sew a proper casing and run a drawstring through it without getting it all twisted.

I am a veteran of several early skirmishes with drawstring casings, mainly on lengths of gingham in my house colour (bad-egg yellow). On shoe bags, sewing tidies and primitive attempts at skirts, the results were always the same: bunched, amaneurish and heavily speckled with needle-pricks of blood and tears of rage.

A bit later, it is true, drawstrings did creep over my fashion horizon, as the insecure fastenings of off-the-shoulder blouses in highly flammable cotton voile (I had a lovely one, in cherry-coloured embroidered organza), and gypsyish ruffled skirts, decorated with tribal patterns of uncertain ethnic origin. Sooner or later the drawstring would always get caught on something and disappear up its own casing with the speed of a fleeing black mamba, and then you'd have to spend hours fiddling about with a little gold safety pin trying to coax it out again.

Years passed and draw-

strings vanished from my life, reappearing sporadically at the waistband of a delectable pair of lacy-knit babies' leggings, or in the oddly frivolous gathered ankles of soldiers' khakis. But suddenly my new *Vogue* falls open at a Mini Min nylon skirt and top, gathered in elegant wrinkles on to a wholly delectable leather drawstring. Good gracious. Evidently it is time for me to get out my little gold safety pin again.

I didn't think that it was going to be easy. Drawstrings would be all very well if it were not for all the gathering involved. Bad enough when one is talking about some kind of long, trailing, romantic skirt. But as for drawstring trousers — well, if there is a better way of adding six inches to one's waist and behind, I have not yet discovered it. In fact, the more I think about drawstring trousers, the more rebellious I feel.

Perhaps, like those huge, flat Mary Jane shoes with the strap across the thickest part of the instep, this may have to be one fashion to which I refuse to fall victim.

Then, on my quest for a comfortable and elegant working wardrobe, I found myself trying on, more from a sense of duty than with any enthusiasm, a couple of pairs of drawstring trousers, one in navy canvas by Armani, and another in sand-coloured polyester by Donna Karan, and a kind of conversion took place. My error, it appears, has been to tie the string too tight, lashing it at the waist as though I expected a force nine gale to blow up. Hence the unflattering bunching effect fore and aft.

Now, said the sympathetic clothes consultant who had taken me in hand, if I were to loosen the string a little, so that the waistline fell in a gentle curve just below navel level, I would see a startling improvement. She was right. My Donna Karan strides, which — as I had been wearing them — suggested an unfortunate misalliance between Field Marshal Montgomery and Mrs Arabella Bloomer, slunk down towards my hipbones. Worn with Warehouse's shoulder-buttoned khaki rib T-shirt with a little buttoned pocket on the upper arm, the effect was of a sexy deserter from some hitherto unknown female offshoot of the French Foreign Legion.

You can guess the rest. The spectre of Andy Pandy has been banished and I simply can't understand how I put up for so long with the tight, unyielding denim waistband of my jeans cutting into my tender midriff. I am probably too mean to buy drawstrings from Armani or Prada, but there are plenty of alternatives. At French Connection there is a good version of the military Donna Karan look, in sand or black cotton with reinforced knees, Velcro-fastening pockets and a drawstring waist in an extraordinary, but quite attractive, sort of gold-brown sacking for £45. At Laura Ashley, for a long time the home of the supreme-



Strings attached: "How did I put up with unyielding denim waistbands for so long?"

white or sky blue are £45; plain linen wide-leg pants are £65 (a matching drawstring jacket with a pouch pocket is £110); and, for the urban peasant, French Connection has wide pants with a button fly and a drawstring waist in an extraordinary, but quite attractive, sort of gold-brown sacking for £45. At Laura Ashley, for a long time the home of the supreme-

ly unflattering trouser, there are some admirably plain, rather Frenchified slate linen-mix drawstring pants for £45 (avoid at all costs the print version, which would infallibly turn anyone, however slender, into an elephant). A matching, unlined jacket, like a French workman's jacket, is £60. Warehouse has a brace of classic drawstring pants — in charcoal viscose jersey for £35,

or black polyamide (£45). Khaki cotton drawstring fatigues are £38. And at Warehouse, Andy Pandy's rebellious teenage offspring can find acres of drawstring pants at pocket-money prices, of which the most striking are probably the cropped fatigues, £28, and the polyester-mix pants in pale grey, black or air-force blue, with toggle ties at ankle and waist.

HOT TIP



ORIGINS

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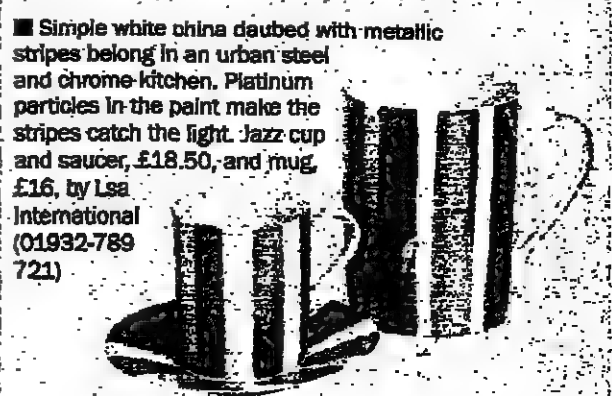
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Origins No Offense is a new deodorant that doesn't leave a chalky residue on your clothes. It's not sticky, and because it is free of alcohol and propylene glycol there is no pore-clogging or irritation. The combination of science and natural oils helps to calm skin and control odour-causing bacteria in both men and women. £9.50 by Origins, available from Harrods (0171-730 1234)

Objects of desire



Made from individual beads, these lilac butterfly hairclips have wire antennae — the perfect accessory for this season's floral dresses. £4 from Top Shop (0171-636 7700)



Simple white china daubed with metallic stripes belong in an urban steel and chrome kitchen. Platinum particles in the paint make the stripes catch the light. Jazz cup and saucer, £18.50, and mug, £16, by Lisa International (01932-789 721)

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I have discovered a life of better by husband of 32

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Bring on the rivals, I'm fighting for a spoil

Jack Straw, Robin Cook, Frank Dobson, Alastair Campbell — these are some of the truly inspiring names of our age, names that have the power to spur all of us to reassess our lives and to wonder if maybe it isn't time to emigrate.

But what is it that makes them so unsatisfying? It's their ersatz quality. They're not the Real McCoy. They are the political world's version of the newspaper spoiler.

Spoilers are a newspaper's way of stealing a rival's clothes when it fears its own wardrobe might look wanting; for example, this week, to tarnish *The Mirror's* scoop serialisation of Andrew Morton's new book on Monica Lewinsky, its rivals have done nothing to discourage their readers from believing that it is they who have secured Lewinsky's story.

On Wednesday *The Sun's* front

page carried a picture of Lewinsky next to the promise: "We've got the FIRST interview." *The Mirror*, which began its serialisation only yesterday, has been so anxious that it has been running anti-spoiler spoilers of its own all week, with front covers suggesting that its inside pages contained extracts from Morton's book when, in fact, they contained only articles about the background to the book.

In a similar saga last week, *The Daily Telegraph* published extracts from Germaine Greer's sequel to *The Female Eunuch*, which revealed that after 30 years of campaigning for feminist ideals, Greer is, astonishingly, still a woman. But *Daily Mail* readers must have been baffled by the *Telegraph's* crowing about its exclusive, because their own paper was telling them how "In the first of a compelling new series today we reveal the sexual

forces that shaped one of the century's most extraordinary thinkers." What the *Daily Mail* was in fact publishing were extracts from an old, unauthorised biography of Greer by Christine Wallace.

But whereas newspaper spoilers are criticised outside Fleet Street by people who think that they tell you everything you need to know about the jackdaw morality of journalists, the human political spoiler is actually running the country.

The human political spoiler gets to sit at Tony Blair's Cabinet table. He's given a Whitehall ministry to run: civil servants who will take the blame when their boss should have read an important report but didn't, and flights on Concorde. When it comes to running spoilers, politicians are the experts.

New Labour, we can now see, was nothing more than a spoiler designed to imitate the Tories and

thereby seduce voters into switching allegiance. Tony Blair has diligently stolen every idea the Tories had, a task obviously made easier by the fact that the Tories didn't have many. As far as the Thatcherite creed of "One of Us" goes, Blair is more royalist than the king.

Having bagged the last election, Blair continues to deploy spoiler tactics. Worried that a more electable Tory might unseat William Hague as Tory leader, Blair has activated a spoiling campaign by appointing Hague's likely rivals to run task forces, thus tainting them as new Labour sympathisers.

Chris Patten has been co-opted to review the Royal Ulster Constabulary. Michael Heseltine is helping the Government to promote Anglo-Chinese trade. Lord Wakeham, the former Conservative leader in

the Lords, is to supervise a Royal Commission into the future of the Upper House.

The spoiler that makes new Labour gingle is, of course, Kenneth Clarke (Blair: "Why isn't Ken in our Cabinet?"). Campbell: "He's a Tory, but Hague says he'll kick him out if he backs pro-single currency rebels in this summer's Euro-elections." Blair: "Super! Then we can make him Deputy PM".

Most of new Labour's First XI are human political spoilers, too. Robin Cook successfully makes even emptier threats to despoil the world's troublespots than did his predecessor as Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind. Jack Straw — mimicking the Tories' Home Secretary Michael Howard — is also a smart, often eloquent politician who has a knack of coming across as a complete pouter. At Health, Frank Dobson sets the

world alight just as dimly as Stephen Dorrell did before him. At the Department of Trade, Blair has found a perfect spoiler for the unmemorable Ian Lang in the forgettable Stephen Byers.

Spoiling is everywhere. High street clothes shops do it by copying designer's frocks while they are still on the catwalks in Milan and Paris and getting them into the shops almost overnight. I had planned to write today about the euro. Then I learnt that a columnist on a rival newspaper was going to write about spoilers. So my journalistic instinct told me that it was professional duty to spoil his column about spoilers.

If, by some unfortunate chance, you should read another article in another newspaper today that shamelessly sets out to spoil my spoiler about spoilers, don't tell me. I'll spoil my whole day.

I have discovered a lifetime of betrayal by my husband of 32 years

Lynn Redgrave is in crisis. In an interview with Janie Lawrence she tells for the first time why she is divorcing her husband

We have been talking for 35 minutes before it becomes apparent that all is not well with Lynn Redgrave. Until this point she has given a bravura performance perfectly befitting one of our most accomplished actresses: poised, soignée, and recounting anecdotes with considerable brio.

I am the last in a series of journalists interviewing her about her new (and very fine) film, *Gods and Monsters*, for which she has been nominated for an Oscar. And if she doesn't win one for the film, she certainly deserves one for the performance she managed to maintain almost, but not quite, until the end of her grueling publicity schedule on Tuesday afternoon.

The straw that breaks her is my innocent and well-intentioned remark that finally she appears to have it all — professional acclamation, and a marriage (to John Clark, the child star of *Just William*) which, in the flighty world of Hollywood, has gone on for ever: 32 years, to be precise.

"Yes, it's been a very long one," she replies, in measured tones distinctly lacking in enthusiasm. For a few minutes she continues to talk about her career before volunteering, in an apparent non sequitur, that she has been undergoing therapy since December.

That would normally indicate someone in crisis, I say, puzzled. "As a matter of fact, I am in crisis," she replies. Her voice is steady but her fingers twiddle agitatedly with a nap-

kin. "This has been a very difficult time. In many ways I'm having...". Her face crumples, and she abruptly dissolves into tears.

Even in distress she is dignified. She weeps quietly, silently accepting the tissue I have ferreted for in my bag, and continues for some minutes. Unsure what to say, my immediate thought is that she must be gravely ill; certainly, she looks as though she has lost some weight.

Her grief is painful to witness and it is several minutes more before she regains any semblance of composure. "I'm sorry," she gulps. "No, I'm not ill. As of Thanksgiving, I've discovered a lifetime of betrayal from my husband, and I'm divorcing him. You're the first person I've told. I suppose it's because I'm wobbly and tired."

The first thing that's been revealed to me involves another child who has been in my house all this time, and who I never knew was my husband's child. And now my husband has just spoken to the *National Enquirer*.

She was expecting the story to break next week. Instead, the news breaks the day after we meet. And what an extraordinary, and tawdry, tale of betrayal it is. Last November, her husband confessed to her that he had fathered the child of the woman who later married their son, Zachary.

The eight-year-old boy Lynn had always thought of as her surrogate grandson, was in fact her husband's child.

He said he had had an affair



In crisis: "People will say hooray for Lynn, but there is a price to pay. You can have your life as you knew it destroyed"

with a woman called Nicolette, and that during the affair she had become pregnant by him. The affair ended and subsequently Nicolette fell in love with, and married, Lynn and John's own son, Ben, who, not knowing who Zachary's real father was, adopted him as his own.

"It was right beneath my

nose for eight years," says Lynn, her voice hollow with the shock of it still. "I thought this child was my surrogate grandchild: that his own father was a s*** and never paid attention to him."

It is unlikely that any of this would have become public, were it not for the fact that last year Nicolette filed a restraining

order against Clark, who she alleged was harassing her. By this time her marriage to Ben had broken up, and she was involved with a married plumber. Lynn says that her husband was forced finally to confess to her because of the alleged harassment. Nicolette, in an apparent attempt to stop him, was threatening to

tell Lynn about Zachary. "He's harangued them in the most appalling way and she threatened to tell me if he didn't stop. So he told me, but then he carried on. Because he can't have her, he doesn't want anyone else to have her."

It was Thanksgiving, the traditional day in America for family unity, when her hus-

band turned Lynn's own family inside out. "It's quite, quite horrifying," she says. "I'd just put the turkey in the oven. We had a houseguest, and John said he had something to tell me. We went into the garden and he told me about Zachary."

Her immediate reaction, she says, was to feel compassion for Zachary. She recounts the betrayal without anger or rancour: it is as if she is still in such a deep state of shock that she can scarcely believe the words she is uttering. "I'm not bitter. I'm a lot of things, but I don't have time for that. I've been in a terrible state of struggle, and gradually making moves towards taking control of the situation. And with each step I take, as hard as it is, I feel a little clearer."

Many times over the past three months, she has been driving and had to pull over because she simply couldn't see the road. "Quite honestly, I was unable to drive at all on the freeway for a month."

For a long time she was unable to eat, and has lost ten pounds in less than eight weeks. "I've eaten better because I'm away, but it's probably the first time I've eaten

fallers. "And yet...". Her eyes well up again.

One dreadful irony is that her husband is also her manager. Since her performance in *Shine* she has gone from strength to strength; she is marvellous in *Gods and Monsters* and with the Oscars only weeks away, he would, under normal circumstances, be accompanying her. Now she intends to go with her daughters. "The bitter sweetness is that he has been a great champion of my work, and long wanted me to succeed. All that's happened has been to rejoice in, to share in. But how can I? So I can only say: 'Well, I'm still here and I'll go on for my kids.'"

"I suppose what I'm thinking is that the Greek gods who look over us from Mount Olympus are saying: 'Well, we've decided that you've worked very hard as an actor, you've paid your dues and you've lived a good life. People will say, hooray for Lynn, she's back, but there's a price to pay. And this is the price. You can have your life as you knew it destroyed.'"

Unsurprisingly, she has barely given her future any thought. "This has been a mas-

I had just put the turkey in the oven. We had a guest, and John said he had something to tell me. We went into the garden and he told me about Zachary

properly in three months."

Her husband has stated that until she filed for divorce on Monday, he had been hoping they would be able to "patch things up". This seems a remarkable comment from a man who has revealed his story to America's most notorious (and high-paying) tabloid. Yet women have forgiven errant husbands, in the most extraordinary of circumstances, before does Lynn share his hope of reconciliation?

"It's too soon for me to say. I can't forgive him and go back to him. There is no way we can be back together." It was her husband's decision to tell all to the *National Enquirer*, she says, that jolted her into filing for divorce. "He didn't dream that I would do it. But once he spoke out, I had to. I didn't want my action to be the result of an article. There's no wavering on my part." She adds, ominously: "This is only the tip of the iceberg. And how huge is this? The rest of it is horrifying."

She won't be drawn further as to what "the rest of it" is. On the basis of what we know so far, it hardly bears contemplating. And, inevitably, one of the most painful elements for her is having to wonder whether her whole married life has been a sham.

"Yes, that's what I have to work through. And to tell myself what I believe is true: that he has loved me. He's loved me very deeply, I think." She

sive chunk of my life, so I have a long way to go before I can put this into perspective. I'm not afraid of being alone. I'm quite good at it. But then I have children and my daughter Kelly is expecting twins, so soon I'll have grandchildren. I've had very much of a wonderful life. Of course, my children have been very affected by all of this."

As for her attitude towards Zachary, she insists nothing will change. "He is the most wonderful child and I truly love him."

When we speak later on the phone, after the news story has broken, she says she is exhausted and keen to gather strength before she begins shooting a new film next week. "I think I am strong but I've been moved at how good my family have been. They've been fantastic. Until this, I've never confided in anyone apart from my husband for the whole of my married life."

She says she has categorically no intention of engaging in a public war of words with her husband, and states that she intends forthwith to maintain a dignified silence. Yet rarely a day goes by when she is not, at some point, overwhelmed by emotion. Her voice trembles. "In many ways my marriage wasn't perfect, but I loved him deeply. My heart rose when I heard his football in the kitchen." Copyright: Janie Lawrence

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Why Britain will be in the money

We can only benefit from staying away from euroland

Whoever said that newspapers were remote from their readers? I was planning not to write about Europe again this week, but the deluge of e-mails and letters has persuaded me otherwise. It looks as if the position of being pro-European but anti-EMU is one that very many of you share.

So why do critics claim that it is self-contradictory? Colin Sharman, of KPMG, dismissed it as like being "half-pregnant" when New Europe, the organisation with which I am involved, was launched on Monday. Passionate EMU-philes love setting up a false dichotomy: you either have to go with the flow or leave the EU altogether. That's as silly as saying that you can't love football but hate Arsenal.

But at least Mr Sharman will vote "yes" out of real enthusiasm. More worrying are the millions who have grave doubts about joining the euro but fear there is no future for this country outside it. The "yes" campaign will play mercilessly on these fears. It will claim that we "cannot afford" to be "left behind".

So the onus is on opponents of EMU to boost people's confidence that Britain can thrive in the Union outside the eurozone. For we are not a pathetic little country that cannot survive without pooling economic management with the Germans and the French. Far from it.

Britain has the fifth largest economy in the world. It is one of only five permanent members of the UN Security Council and is a leading member of Nato and G7. None of these facts will change, in or out of EMU — except that, if we join, our G7 seat may go to a joint eurozone representative.

Would we lose inward investment if we stayed out? I very much doubt it: we may even gain it. Don't forget that we would remain in the single market. EMU-enthusiasts claim that the eurozone would rig the market against us. Not only would that be illegal, under the Treaty of Rome, it would also be wholly against the eurozone's interests, since we are their biggest trading partner and the balance of trade is in their favour.

Inward investors in Britain would have to hedge their currency exposure to the euro. But, offset against that tiny insurance premium would be the huge benefits of our labour flexibility, low tax and modest social costs, not to mention our language and reputation as a good place to live. A dynamic economy on the fringes of euroland could be a far more attractive site for investment than the often sclerotic and overtaxed countries within the zone. German companies are already moving their factories here. Deutsche Bank has just spent £300 million improving its international headquarters — in London, not Frankfurt.

Of course the pressures to raise our tax and social costs will come whether we join or not. But the chances of resisting them are greater if we remain outside. This is how it will happen. Endless proposals for "harmonisation" will come: each time (I hope)

Britain will either veto or threaten its veto. The other Europeans will be livid and will compare Tony Blair to Margaret Thatcher.

They will suggest (they already have) that the veto be abolished for all but treaty changes. We will veto that suggestion. Deadlock will ensue, which will be broken by the proposal that the euro-II harmonise whatever they like, as long as they don't expect the countries outside euroland to join in. Such flexibility is already in use in the EU: in the Schengen accord on open borders and in EMU itself.

Some euro-enthusiasts will, of course, complain that this will lead to a two-tier Europe, to which I reply, "Hurrah!" That is exactly what we want: a chance for the people of each country to choose how much integration they are comfortable with. If I were Italian, I would be delighted for the EU to take over powers from my often fractious and unstable national governments. Being British, I am more dubious.

And if that leaves us outside "the heart of Europe", so what? Actually, we have never been there, and would not reach it even if we joined the euro. The heart of Europe is Germany and France and, for genuine historical, cultural and geographical reasons, that always will be. But what does it matter? We can take advantage of our huge position between Europe and America.

Would we be poorer outside? Far from it. For a start, we would retain the flexible labour markets that the euro-II will be tempted to legislate away. That would make us even more competitive. And the City will be fine: it has always excelled in offshore business.

Most important, though, our chances of maximising our growth and minimising our unemployment depend on having interest rates that are tuned as closely as possible to the state of our economy at any one time. Just a point or two too high, and we dampen growth and lose jobs; too low and we suffer inflation, making our industry uncompetitive. The euro interest rate is likely to be a bit wrong for most of the time, as Germany is already finding. Outside, we are more likely to have interest rates that are just right.

So I have a very sunny vision of Britain outside the euro. It is not just that I fear what we would lose inside: the chance to throw out the people who run our economy badly, the loss of levers over economic policy and much more. I look forward to what we would gain outside. Compared with the eurozone, Britain would be a dynamic, flexible, modern, open country with the ability to be quick on its feet and to make the most of its unique position linking Europe and America.

Inside the EU but outside EMU, we can have the best of both worlds. Why throw it away?

Mary Ann Sieghart to the-times.co.uk
info@new-europe.co.uk



Mary Ann Sieghart



It's dead wrong

We deplore the murderers of British tourists, but bomb Iraqis with impunity

This week, as we are all aware, a group of non-Europeans killed a group of Britons in a most brutal fashion. The story is still being given sensational coverage in the British media. Meanwhile a group of Britons have been killing non-Europeans in a most brutal fashion. That story has been ignored.

The killing of four Britons in Uganda, allegedly because of British support for the Tutsi regime in Rwanda, was ghastly and tragic. Travellers to turbulent parts of the world take a risk. British visitors have been killed in Yemen, in Chechnya and in South-East Asia. None received two, three, four pages of gruesome coverage, day after day, Rwanda and its borderland is the site of Africa's Cambodia, a bloodbath not yet over. The genocide is ignored by British and American interventionists largely because blacks are killing blacks, and doing so far from cameras and aircraft carriers. It is hard not to conclude that the attention given to this tragedy was because blacks killed whites, and with gruesome weapons, thus conforming to the stereotype of "barbaric" Africa.

Now for the unimportant killing. Britain is currently conducting a bombing campaign against Iraq in support of the War of Clinton's Frustration. In December, British and American forces unleashed a rain of terror on Baghdad with the macho title of Desert Fox. This was a 72-hour burst of bombs and missiles, whose objectives were obscure. They were variously to "teach Saddam a lesson", to "disarm him from the air", to restore weapons inspections and possibly to yield a coup. Afterwards, Tony Blair boasted "We have put Saddam back firmly in his cage and secured it". Washington agreed. Its justification for Desert Fox was to achieve what United Nations inspectors had failed to achieve: to neutralise President Saddam Hussein's offensive weapons. This had been done.

In which case what was the point of continuing with sanctions after December? The answer is that there was a wider war aim. Within weeks the bombing resumed. In the past two months, more bombs have fallen on Iraq than during Desert Fox. A wider list of targets has included vaguely defined "command and control" sites. Even assuming a pilot knows what he is aiming at, he cannot be sure of hitting it. The Pentagon recently

confirmed that only half of Desert Fox's 34 air defence targets were hit. The UN staff in Baghdad are now auditing civilian casualties from some 80 recent Anglo-American raids. In the past two months, they confirmed 17 dead, including a woman and five children, in a housing estate in Basra, an outrage that would have stunned the media had it been an Iraqi bomb in a British housing estate. They have confirmed five women and five children killed in Abu Khasib, six

present they do not pass muster. This war has not even been put before the House of Commons. The reason is that it cannot be defended there, even before a Commons which these days has all the independence of a Baghdad military parade.

This week the poor Defence Secretary, George Robertson, was pushed forward to parrot the old Vietnam War phrases. The targets, he explained, were being "degraded" by British pilots in "self-defence" while flying "humanitarian missions" intended "to protect the Iraqi people". I had a flashback to General Westmoreland in Saigon, explaining why you must bomb a village to save it. Meanwhile Mr Robertson and his friends this week bombed the Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline at Ceyhan, the conduit for oil-fuel that is the one shred of humanitarianism left in this affair. We let Iraq sell oil for children's food, then bomb the oil. To hell with the ethics. This is lunacy.

I am not a pacifist. In my time I have visited some horrid, and justified, wars. But this campaign is indefensible. The "official" objective is quite different from December's Desert Fox, which was to punish the Iraqi President and destroy his chemical and biological weapons. This campaign is allegedly to protect the "no-fly" zones in the north and south of the country. But Saddam is not threatening them. He is merely using his, supposedly degraded, air force to "cheat and retreat": to entice the British and American planes into bombing attacks that he hopes will win him Arab and Eastern bloc support. His tactic appears to be working.

We are now told privately that the real reason for the war is different again. It is to go on pounding Iraq with bombs, any old where, until they do what bombers have never

done before: bring about the downfall of a regime. This reason cannot be declared because it is illegal. For better or worse, overthrowing the leader of a sovereign state by force runs counter to both the UN Charter and international law. So what we have here is, in reality, a private war against Iraq that neither London nor Washington can avow. The nearest parallels are the operations by Presidents Nixon and Reagan against hostile Governments in Chile, Nicaragua, Lebanon and Panama. Mostly they used mercenaries. Britain is using the RAR.

In which case, cries a modern Palmerston, at least let it work. But how? This is a war without any plan, any tactic, any strategy or any foreseeable victory. It is mere bombing. Toppling Saddam Hussein would plainly require a ground assault. Britain has neither the will nor the guts for that. If Anglo-American forces invaded, against the opposition of half the world, they would have to fight and to stay. As in Bosnia and presumably in Kosovo, they would have to take responsibility for the aftermath. They would need to be proper policemen, rather than the present hit-and-run vendetta squad.

The British Government lacks the courage of its convictions in this venture. It is pursuing low-cost, low-risk machismo. It is doing something relatively easy, but obscenely cruel, to avoid having to do something hard but sensible. This would be to admit that a decade of anti-Saddam strategy has failed and sanctions should end. Bombing and sanctions have merely entrenched him, and worsened the impoverishment of his people. British ministers keep saying they have no quarrel with the Iraqi people, only with Saddam. Not so: There are two quarrels. One is with Saddam, which he is winning. The other is with the Iraqi people, which they are losing. They are the ones Britain is bombing.

The present British Cabinet and Parliamentary Labour Party are largely composed of one-time anti-war protesters. A general once told me that whenever he saw ban-the-bombers on the march his instinct was to run for cover. He was right. But I never thought the marchers would end up dropping the bombs.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Simon Jenkins

'Asterix in euroland: featuring the Magister Primus, Tony Preposterus, and his noisy henchman Bill Cashnametapex'

Now is the time for Asterix and Obelix to visit euroland. Those archaic cartoon Gauls have deconstructed and taken the pix out of most other human pomposities in their struggles with J. Caesar and his original Treaty of Rome. With a Falstaffian majesty they refuse to take at all seriously all persons, powers and institutions that take themselves seriously. Participants in the euro debate are ripe for their attention.

So on his next quest Asterix should revisit his cousins in Britannia Magna, where the debate rages hottest. The very names lend themselves to his punning art, from Eurosepeix, Chief Druid of the Oompah-pah Sept which worships the late defunct Jimmy Auriex, to Euromania, the high priestess of the confederated led from the rear by various bashful Latin lovers. These include the Magister

Primus, Tony Preposterus of the cheesy curate's smile, and his Magister Secundus, Guru of Darkness, Petrus Mandelfilius. There Asterix and Obelix will meet Bill Cashnametapex Veruluminosus, whose oratory can empty the Senate of senators and a newspaper page of its readers faster than any other campaigner, except, perhaps, for Ted Campus (Heath) of the Europhilic Clan. Winsome Teresa Gorman shall carry a spear, entirely for her own cursus honorum rather than any tribal cause, and so will Anticlimax Hastings, scribe for Conradus Nigerrimus. Another scribe for Nigerrimus, Christopher Liber-

et, will each week publish a horror story about some imaginary pettyfoggish regulations emanating from the great law-making convention under the Brussels Sprout. And the following week somebody who knows

anything about it will write to point out that he has got all his facts wrong, as per usual. Panacea Impedimenta will swing her handbag again at filthy foreign fiends, as she once did beside her sister Boadicea. And Geratrix Tebbitts, the grumpy old man of heri, will snarl and gibber such threats as shall be the terrors of the earth, could anyone still be bothered to listen to or understand him.

As usual for Asterix, we shall have a pictorial pun, perhaps from Rubens's painting of Zeus visiting Danaë in a tickler-tape shower of eurobonds. And there must be a literary reference, possibly to Doctor Debus Owing, leader of the neweurope sect

Philip Howard



of opportunist kermes and gaffloglasses. "Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong," is everything by starts and nothing long.

There will be a caponiphonix pax of dogs of a snappy Russell nature, as is suitable in Britannica, all called Iddex and Dogmatix. The tribal prophet will produce, for a suitably large emolument in menhirs from Stonehenge, the answer anybody wants by rephrasing the question craftily. For example: "Do you want your feudal levies in euro menhirs decided by Atilla de Lora in Frankfurt, or by Unionjazz Sendervictorius and Applinglorius, your tribal chief-

tains at Westminster?" An economist, called Hypothetix Vainglorius, will expound unintelligible runes about Endogenous Variable Growth Economics, and crowds of assorted voters and nutters, with such names as Histrixix, Tragicomix, Homeopathix and Sophistix will demonstrate, screeching: "Serva nostram libram. Save our pound."

To conform to the Asterix consilium, there will be some Gadus (cod) pedagogy, about how the pound sterling has developed from older tribal totems such as angels, guineas, florins and, as it happens, the first euro coinage, the libra. And the curious riddle by which the almighty dollar sprang out of the "large groats" coined by an obscure Bohemian Count in a dim Bohemian village in 1518, and crossed the Atlantic by way of James VI's sword dollars in

Scotland, and Spanish pieces of eight. Chancellor Odiuscomparison will declare in his Budget that money like menhirs has only two properties: it should be flat so that it can be piled up. And it should be round, or oblong, so that it can circulate. There will be a Virgilian tag, remembered from Old Chalky, *Librae sacrae fames*, perhaps. The absurd hunger for the pound.

As usual, the whole lousy mess will have to be resolved by a magic potion, brewed at the Ripa of Anglia by Eddie Genafix. For the British curmudgeons the ingredients should be bos os (beef on the bone), boiled cabbage soaked in mint sauce, genetically modified chips with vinegar, weak tea and warm beer. And the Asterix book will be more illuminating and edifying than most of the propaganda put out by the fassiparous and endearing tribes of Ancient Britain.



Loose cannon

AS MONICA LEWINSKY flies over here with her amorous tale, Major James Hewitt is heading over there to give a lecture tour about his friendship with the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

The major, a lovely man really, says he is poised to follow Baroness Thatcher, John Major and the writer, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, where he could earn as much as £30,000 a chair. For as the great novelist says: "I gave a lecture in Palm Beach yesterday and half the questions were about Diana."

"If Archer can do it, anyone can," Hewitt claims. Talking about the Princess is "painful" but he admits that if he were to give a lecture series "it is an aspect of my life one would have to touch upon."

MADONNA'S affection for Britain extends to our floors: she has bought a £30,000 pure British carpet to line her daughter's nursery. The singer commissioned 160 square metres for young Lourdes from Heckmondwike Carpets in Yorkshire. A big bedroom, that, for a little girl.

DIANE ABBOTT claims wildly in the House, amid stifled chorales, that a black had rung her to say the Foreign Office has "an arsenal of personal information" to use against her. Perhaps she meant me. I rang to relay a harmless little story about the time she played opposite Michael Portillo in a school play. She seemed to construe this as an FO plot to bring her down. You must get out more, Diane.



THE saucer-eyed Sophie Dahl, granddaughter of Roald (tooth above), is to venture to India to ease her writer's block. The orb of modelling tells me she is tired of London and dreams of escape to a mobile-free mecca. "I have been trying to write for ages," she says. "All my student friends do the travelling thing, but I missed out because I work so hard."

WILLIAM HAGUE has had an idea. Or three. To be fair, the Tory leader, I hear, has devised themes to push in a summer offensive. The first, the British have not changed (they still hate social security fraud, paying tax, etc). The second, the Tories should be the "new Whigs". This requires the Tories "to tell a story of progress". As well as contradicting theme one, this seems to sit a little oddly with, well, Conservatism. Theme three (ah, that familiar glow): freedom. Back to the brain vat, William.

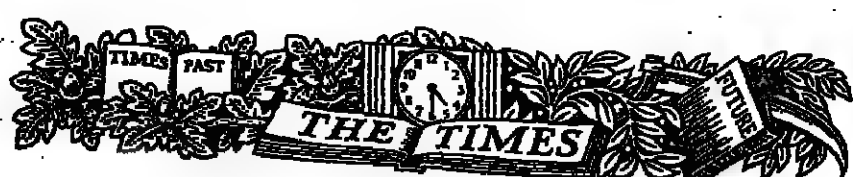
SHOOTING rather than the Liberal Democrat leadership is exercising the splendid Mercedes Campbell. As the 45 potential candidates met, some expressed concern about disclosing the result on August 9. "Whatever is the problem?" piped up Ming. "It's better than August 12."



IN HIS efforts to flog the Millennium Dome, Lord Falconer of Thoroton is trying with a classic play favoured by property developers. The chubby one is poised to make the Greenwich erection a sexier buy by cleverly redefining it as a company rather than an asset. Thus, a purchaser would pay stamp duty of 0.5 per cent, incurred on share sales, rather than 3 per cent, which falls due on asset disposals. The only loser? You.

THE Queen's distaste for dreary repetition fills me with admiration. Sent a rare invitation from the Royal Opera House to see The Marriage of Figaro, she politely sent her regrets because she had already seen it — remembering it as the one about the girl losing a pin.

JASPER GERARD



BLAIR'S BANANA SKIN

What a ridiculous way to duck the blame for a trade blunder

Tony Blair greatly admires the free-trading, modernising socialism of the Dutch. Had his ministers listened to the Netherlands last year, Scotland's cashmere industry would not now be facing ruin for the sake of an outlawed EU scheme to shield Caribbean banana-growers from competition. Nor would his backbench troops be following his irresponsibly populist lead as they bay for the blood of wicked multinationals with all the unreconstructed fervour of old Labour. Nor would Britain be courting American contempt by summoning the US Ambassador for a carpeting by the Trade Secretary, Stephen Byers, over a trade dispute where the EU, and Britain, have repeatedly been found by an impartial global panel to be legally in the wrong. Robin Cook, never one to avoid digging when the hole yawns, is apparently to repeat this foolish performance today.

What ails this Government, that it should resort to so public a drubbing of its closest ally, with a demerit that, even when she was at her angriest over the US invasion of Grenada, Margaret Thatcher had more sense of decorum and proportion than to contemplate? Is it the Scottish elections that make Mr Blair, there on a visit, pour forth oaths about "our determination to make sure British jobs and Scottish jobs are protected"? Or does this posturing conceal private embarrassment that Britain, this great free-trading nation, shares with the European Commission much of the blame for this stupid crisis?

Britain chaired the EU council which last year, after the EU's banana regime had been thrice condemned by an impartial panel of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as a breach of global trade rules, decided to substitute one trade-distorting regime for banana imports with another. The Dutch, with Denmark, voted against, rightly arguing that the US had won its case and it was time for the EU to obey the agreed laws governing global trade.

Sir Leon Brittan's letter on this page

denies that the EU has dragged its feet. Why then did it ignore the first ruling against it, back in 1994? Why, after the US had won for a third time, did it wait more than 12 months before changing the banana regime — and attempt, even then, to slither past the rules rather than respect them? Sir Leon is too battle-hardened a veteran of transatlantic trade negotiations not to have known that the Americans, who have been waiting half a decade for action, would not be so easily fobbed off. The irresistible conclusion is that he has filibustered, knowing that if the EU tinkered with a quota or two, it could then demand that Washington go back to the WTO and fight the battle all over again. On Sir Leon's own admission, the EU is still refusing to discuss with the US "the substance of the new regime" — a regime whose whole purpose is discriminatory.

The US has been criticised in the past on this page for using its muscle rather than playing by the rules; but in this case, after sitting for six years like patience on a monument, it is hardly surprising that it is no longer smiling on the grievance the EU persists in causing the world trade system. Rules, unlike bananas, may not be bent, if global trade is to thrive. The Government has known since at least last November about America's March deadline for exacting compensation for losses suffered by America's banana distributors — time enough to ensure that the axe did not fall.

It is quite true that the US has no legal right to impose sanctions until yet another WTO panel has decided how much compensation is appropriate; but it has not, technically, done so: customs bonds must be posted, but will not be collected until the WTO reports. If Mr Blair objects to legalistic games, he should not have joined Brussels in playing them. Makers of cashmere, batteries or biscuits are right to be disgusted. But it is British ministers — not evil US multinationals — that they should blame for their undesired plight.

SENATOR CLINTON

Republicans want the First Lady to fight in New York

While the United States and much of the wider world awaited the words of the Latest Lover, the First Lady has spent the past two days in New York dropping hints that she may seek election to the Senate. Hillary Clinton's speech there on Wednesday in which she said that "we cannot drop out of the political process" was deliberately teasing. If she stands, her opponent will almost certainly be Rudolph Giuliani, the Republican Mayor of New York City.

This would be a bitter and expensive battle. Mrs Clinton starts with strong poll ratings and undoubted celebrity. But she has never sought elective office before and is notoriously thin-skinned in her media dealings. Mr Giuliani has already raised her public support for a Palestinian state as an issue that might alienate Jewish voters. This may prove less of a difficulty if Binjamin Netanyahu loses the forthcoming Israeli election and is replaced by a politician willing to surrender more territory to Yasser Arafat. It is, however, an indication of what Mrs Clinton will face if she chooses to accept the Senate challenge.

Her biggest liability would be her status as an outsider. Born in Illinois, educated in Connecticut, resident of Arkansas, currently established in Washington, she has only slender connections with the Empire State. This may not matter much in Manhattan or even the rest of New York City where many voters are themselves recent immigrants. It takes more than a (Greenwich) village, however, to be elected across the whole of New York State. In cities such as Albany, Buffalo and Syracuse, Mrs Clinton's lack of local knowledge will matter.

OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

Parliament opens its chambers to tourism

Roll up, roll up. Tickets for London's longest-running show. Enter the Chambers, if you dare. The Palace of Westminster is throwing open its doors. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. This tour is not for the faint-hearted. Prepare yourself for the grey-suited ghouls of London's most authentic Chambers of Horrors. Don't be deceived by Betty Boothroyd's matronly manner, a harp-tongued Speaker presides here. Listen to the baying of political debate. Follow me ladies and gentlemen, to the cries and crannies where the cameras never probe. Pry into those places where plots have been perpetrated.

Here politicians have been skewered, stabbed and grilled. Party leaders have lost face. Cromwell's head, exhumed after the restoration of Charles II, glared down on this hall for 20 years. And Spencer Perceval met his end, near here in Pugin's magnificent lobby. He was the only Prime Minister ever to be assassinated in deed not in word.

Now we are standing in the Commons chamber. Note the red lines: two sword-lengths apart — just far enough to separate fractious Members. But still, they failed to stop MPs from exchanging more than stop verbal blows. Emmanuel Shinwell once hit a Tory here so hard that the man's ears rang for the rest of his life. He may have been among the many who resorted to drink to quell their nerves. Even Disraeli quaffed brandy and water. Gladstone

preferred sherry and egg. But more sober Members may resort to snuff, provided there is a box behind the Speaker's Chair.

Here we are at the scene of many an ill-mannered display. Two Members "did both come drunk the other day into the House, and did both speak for half an hour" wrote Samuel Pepys. And on this spot Michael Heseltine swung the Mace, mane blowing in the political tempest.

But the most heinous crimes are reserved for elsewhere, out of the public gaze. Stay close together now and follow me. There are five kilometres of corridor in which to connive. Let us begin here, behind the Speaker's Chair, where members side for secret words and juniors are whipped into party line.

Moving on swiftly we reach Plods' Bar. In watering holes like these careers have sunk while rebellions bubbled. But come deeper down into the bowels of the building to witness the scene of the most secret assassinations. Here in the rifle gallery, MPs lead their researchers on. But when their investigations surface again, the revelation may lead to the end of many a career.

And now we have reached the souvenir shop. Humbugs aplenty, and these are not the only mugs in the House of Commons. Once you could only buy politicians in Parliament. Now there are more tacky trinkets of the tourist trade. Anyone fancy an embossed brown envelope?

US 'flying in face' of banana ruling

From Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission

Sir, You are quite wrong to blame EU "foodragging" for our dispute with the US over banana imports (leading article, March 4). A number of EU member states, especially Britain, have for many years favoured giving preferential access to Caribbean and African bananas to the EU market. Some of those Caribbean economies depend on bananas for up to 25 per cent of their income. Member states approved an amended banana regime last June, maintaining longstanding preferential access for African and Caribbean bananas, but responding to a World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruling which had condemned aspects of our earlier regime.

The US does not like the new regime. They have every right to challenge it again and achieve a final verdict in the WTO. But they have chosen not to do so. Instead, they have unilaterally determined that the new regime is not in compliance with international rules — something which is explicitly forbidden under their WTO obligations.

What the US announced yesterday is not, contrary to their claims, a suspension of sanctions action. It is an illegal measure designed to have immediate negative effects on European exports. The American Government's briefing notes for use with the press confirm this. They explicitly state that "we retaliated by effectively stopping trade as of March 3".

Their claim that they are obliged to act now in order to preserve their WTO rights is unfounded. It was expressly refuted by the WTO arbitrators on March 2, as was the figure for damages the Americans are claiming.

The US is flying in the face of the WTO, an organisation which the EU and the US worked hard to establish and from which we both benefit. The US has taken and won more dispute settlement panels than any other nation. But now they are resorting to the sort of unilateralism which we have been struggling for years to resist.

As for the Commission's role, we have been seeking a settlement and have been ready to address with the Americans the substance of the regime, but not under the duress of threatened unilateral action. Some weeks ago I recommended to EU member states that we should have discussions with the Americans. Many were in favour. Others, including the United Kingdom, were reluctant to agree, although I am happy to note that the British position has since developed and talks have been taking place.

I shall continue to work for a settlement, as I have worked with some success to settle other disputes caused by sanctions-happy American policy.

Yours etc,
LEON BRITTON,
Vice-President,
European Commission,
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels,
March 4.

Breastfeeding problems

From Mrs Alison Watts

Sir, I was sad to read of the traumatic experience of the baby Jessica and her parents in "Breast is not always best" (Weekend, February 27). Beatrice Clark has an understandably negative view of breastfeeding. In this instance it seems that breastfeeding was not properly established, but normally a woman's midwife would pick up any early signs of a problem and help to put things right.

Formula feeding, not breastfeeding, is regarded as normal in the UK and this culture is absorbed from childhood onwards. The National Childbirth Trust campaigns to help overcome the obstacles women experience and raise awareness of the health benefits of breastfeeding.

While our objective is a breastfeeding-friendly culture, our counsellors are committed to meeting parents' individual needs, which include supporting mothers who are switching from the breast to a bottle.

Yours sincerely,
ALISON WATTS (Chair,
Breastfeeding Promotion Group,
The National Childbirth Trust,
Alexandra House,
Oldham Terrace, Acton, W3 6NH,
March 4.

What a pane

From Mrs Leonie J. Hill

Sir, As a Southwark Council taxpayer, I am mightily interested in who will foot the window-cleaning bills incurred by Sir Norman Foster's ten-story "glass egg" planned for the South Bank (report and picture, February 26).

Yours faithfully,
LEONIE J. HILL,
6 Hampden Court,
King & Queen Wharf,
Rotherhithe Street, SE16 1SU,
February 26.

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to letters@the-times.co.uk

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

State responsibility towards caring for the elderly

From the Chair of the Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly

Sir, Your leading article, "Care free" (March 2) starts from a fundamental misconception of this commission's findings. These are not based on "old Labour instincts to trust the State". Rather we set out what we believe is the most cost-effective solution for the nation as a whole of making provision for people who need care.

We set out a new form of partnership between State and individual — one that has a cost simply because the current system places too much of a burden on the individual who is in need of care. It introduces an amount of risk-sharing which is currently lacking.

We acknowledge the uncertainty of future governments' intentions — that is why we suggest setting up a National Care Commission.

Your conclusion that the private sector — presumably insurance — should take the burden has been extensively addressed in our report. We point out how insurance will not deliver the goods. This is not just a theoretical position — all we have to do is to look at where it has been extensively market tested — in the United States. There, despite huge state subsidies, policies simply do not sell.

However, with the new form of partnership that the commission proposes, the industry will be able to design affordable products to cover the non-personal care for which the individual is responsible.

Yours sincerely,
STEWART SUTHERLAND,
Chair, Royal Commission on Long Term Care for the Elderly,
Hannibal House, 5th Floor,
Elephant & Castle, SE1 6TE,
March 2.

From the Group Director of Life and Pensions at Norwich Union

Sir, The royal commission's report on long-term care makes a number of extremely valuable recommendations. On funding, however, it is less practical. The funding proposals must be judged in the light of political realities.

Advice for travellers

From Mrs Diana Lamplugh, Director of The Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Sir, In the light of recent events in Uganda (reports and leading article, March 3), may I remind everyone that, whilst the Government and travel organisations have a duty to act on information they are given regarding potential dangers in foreign destinations, individual travellers should also be prepared to take responsibility for their own safety. There are many sources of information which a traveller can consult before choosing a destination.

We worked with Oxford Brookes University last year to launch a safe travel website (www.brookes.ac.uk/worldwise), which gives updates every 48 hours on over 250 countries. These updates come directly from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In addition, we would like to see more done by travel companies to help ensure that travellers are safe. We applaud, for example, *Worldwise: a passport to safer travel*, published by Thomas Cook, and are calling for more travel operators to put some of their profits back into safety initiatives for travellers.

Yours sincerely,
DIANA LAMPLUGH,
Director,
The Suzy Lamplugh Trust,
14 East Street Avenue, SW14 8AS,
March 3.

From the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, No one can fail to be moved by the appalling and tragic loss of lives in Uganda.

Your report (March 3) suggested

GM foods

From Dr Bernard Dixon

Sir, The most bizarre aspect of the hysterical climate now surrounding genetically manipulated foods (letters, February 17, 19 and 23) is the denigration of scientists, coupled with the apparently fashionable belief that food was safe until science and technology rendered it "unnatural" and dangerous.

It was not scientists, but government ministers, who gave invalid public assurance over BSE. What scientists did do was to investigate and pinpoint the cause of this condition and to discover its link with human variant BSE.

More broadly, it is scientists and technologists (rather than ministers, environmental campaigners or journalists) who have provided the considerable portfolio of methods now used to combat food- and water-borne diseases.

Without scientific research we would simply not have known about *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Escherichia coli* O157 and the many other micro-organisms responsible for deadly infections such as botulism, dysentery and cholera. Without science, we would not have been able to develop pasteurisation, sterilisation, water purification and other tech-

niques which are vital to combat these diseases. Nor could we have produced the antibiotics used to cure life-threatening cases of typhoid fever and similar infections.

Our defences against food- and water-borne disease are by no means perfect. But we should remember that "nature", which is suddenly popular with well-nourished Westerners, is characterised not by wholesome, pristine purity, but by plagues and pestilences, many of them associated with food and water. We are privileged that science has helped to deliver us from much of that.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD DIXON,
130 Cornwall Road,
Ruislip Manor, Middlesex HA4 6AW,
March 1.

From Ms Sue Pheasey

Sir, If Tony Blair really is in favour of genetically modified food, there is just one person he needs to convince of its safety — Della Smith.

Yours faithfully,
SUE PHEASEY,
30 Broad Oaks Road,
Solihull, Warwickshire B91 1JB,
March 2.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP G. SCOTT,
Group Director, Life and Pensions,
Norwich Union,
PO Box 48, 25-27 Surrey Street,
Norwich NR1 3TA,
March 3.

From Mr Peter Orr

Sir, Your leader comments sensibly and with restraint on the recommendations by the royal commission, but distances itself from the plight of those who, near to or past retirement age, cannot hope "to save or insure for the future".

The present arrangements for care of the elderly and, in particular, those suffering from Alzheimer's disease can, in certain cases, prove harsh and punitive. Urgently needed now is some sort of transitional scheme to care for people who today can no

longer care for themselves. Those enjoying youth and middle age can read the warning signs and take appropriate action.

It would require only gentle tweaking of fiscal policy to accommodate the royal commission's recommendations on an *ad hoc* basis, and provide immediate assistance for those now too old, too feeble, too helpless to fend for themselves. This, surely, is a debt of honour which should be discharged without hesitation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ORR,
17 Berkley Drive,
Guisborough, Cleveland TS14 7LX,
March 2.

From Mrs Valerie Townsend

Sir, It is incorrect to say (report, February 27) that the State meets the full cost of elderly care if savings fall below £10,000.

Local county councils decide an "expect to pay" level which bears little relation to the real cost of quality care. In this county the level is currently £241 per week (£1.43 per hour) for the total physical and social residential care of a very dependent person. Relatives makes up the shortfall in fees to enable the person to enter the home of their choice.

Yours sincerely,
V. TOWNSEND
(Proprietor),
Ashdown House Residential Home for the Elderly,
Ashworth Street, Daventry,
Northamptonshire NN11 4AR,
March 1.

From Mrs Lillian Taylor

Sir, Just to put into perspective the Government's apparent reluctance to adopt the royal commission's proposals at an annual cost of £1.2 billion, this is roughly equivalent to half the pre-tax profits of NatWest Bank, announced last week (report, Business, February 25).

Yours faithfully,
LILLIAN TAYLOR,
Ashdown, St Lawrence Avenue,
Biddisford, Kent TN4 0XA,
March 2.

News at Ten

From Sir David Nicholas

Sir, News at Ten on Independent Television comes to an end this Friday. When the Independent Television Commission decided last November to uphold the ITV companies' request to kill off News at Ten, it was reported that the commission members' vote was seven to three. The ITC did not disclose which way individual members voted.

Former ITC colleagues and I have since learned that one of the key votes to end News at Ten was cast by Sir Michael Checkland, former Director-General of the BBC and now a member of the commission. No one would question his integrity, but over the decades News at Ten was a troublesome competitor to BBC News. I wonder whether Sir Michael, as former Editor-in-Chief of BBC Journalism, felt he had a conflict of interest in the issue?

It would seem to me to be like giving Rommel a say in disbanding the Eighth Army.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID NICHOLAS
(Editor, ITN, 1977-89;
Chairman, 1989-91),
Lodge Stables,
2F Kidbrooke Park Road, SE3 0LW,
March 2.

Millennium Moment

From Mrs H. W. T. Willoughby

Sir, The reported statement by a spokesman for the new Millennium Experience Company that "Church leaders would be welcome guests" at the midnight millennium celebration in the Dome (report, February 25; see also letter, March 4) — and in the context of your report these "guests" would seem to be the Archbishops of Canterbury and Westminster — must surely rank as the most patronising statement of all time.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY WILLOUGHBY,
2 The Grange, Mere,
Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 6DZ.

Where now brown cow?

From Professor Michael J. Stock

Sir, Robin Otter (letter, March 3) claims that the hide of Edward Jenner's red-brown Gloucester cow can be seen in the Gloucester Folk Museum. However, we have a red-brown cow's hide on display in our medical school library that is said to be "Blossom", the cow from which the milkmaid Sarah Nelmes contracted cowpox.

St George's is very proud of its association with Dr Jenner: we have a Jenner Society, a Jenner Wing and his bust sits in our foyer — so the possibility that Blossom was not his cow is very disconcerting. Perhaps he had more than one?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. STOCK,
Department of Physiology,
St George's Hospital Medical School,
Tooting SW17 0RE,
stockm@sglms.ac.uk
March 4.

XTC's agony over

Arts, page 36

BUSINESS • ARTS • MEDIA • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

Who's dumbing down?

Arts, page 35

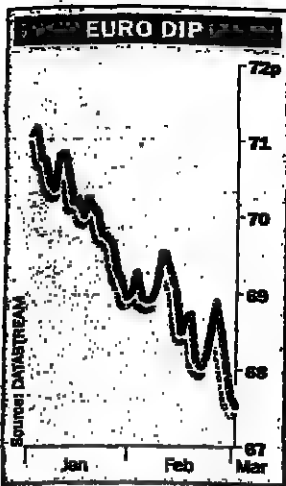
BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MARCH 5 1999

Euro hits new lows as bank spurns Lafontaine's plea for rate cut

ECB refuses to bail out Bonn

By SAIED SHAH



THE European Central Bank refused to come to the aid of a sharply slowing German economy yesterday by leaving its key interest rate on hold at 3 per cent.

Official German figures showed its economy shrinking in the fourth quarter of last year. The Federal Statistics Office of Europe's largest economy yesterday reported that the country's gross domestic product contracted by 0.4 per cent in the final quarter of 1998, compared with the previous quarter, as exports weakened. For the year as a whole, the German economy grew 2.8 per

cent. Steve Barrow, European economist at Bear Stearns International, said: "Germany is half way to recession. It could easily be tipped over the edge."

Two consecutive quarters of negative growth represent a technical recession.

Mr Barrow said that the yearly figure for 1998 was boosted by a "sparkling" first quarter result.

Ahead of the ECB meeting, Oskar Lafontaine, Germany's finance minister, yesterday repeated his pleas for an interest rate cut to help to pull his country away from high unemployment and the dangers of a deflationary spiral. German inflation stood at just 0.2 per

cent in January, compared with a year earlier. Herr Lafontaine does not accept the ECB's argument that interest rates are already low enough. In an interview published yesterday he said: "Inflation in Europe is at an all-time low. With this situation long-term interest rates aren't low but are around 3.5 per cent higher than gross domestic product growth."

The ECB, however, views Germany's unemployment problem as a structural issue and believes that interest rate cuts would not help. The relatively high recent growth of M3 money supply and the weakness of the euro against

other currencies also weighed against a rate cut.

The euro sank to new lows against both the pound and the dollar again yesterday, drifting below \$1.08 and closing at 67.35p against sterling.

Germany has dropped broad hints that if the ECB is not willing to help to boost demand by cutting interest rate, it might resort to increasing government spending. In an attempt to boost demand, the German Government has encouraged generous wage settlements, which have come in over recent weeks at some 3.5 per cent to 4.0 per cent.

After yesterday's interest rate decision, Wim Duisen-

berg, the ECB president, said: "Wage developments are a matter of concern for the ECB, so would be the loosening of fiscal policy or a policy not in accordance with the Stability Pact."

He said that the outlook for price stability was unchanged, despite the risks to economic growth, and claimed that monetary policy was making its contribution to growth in the euro zone.

The French economy grew by 0.7 per cent in the last quarter of 1998 and Spain by 0.8 per cent. Only Italy is nursing as fragile an economic situation as Germany with fourth quarter GDP, due out next

week, expected to be negative. By contrast, the economy in Ireland grew by as much as 8 per cent last year.

The sharp differences in economic conditions across Europe was one of the major arguments against the introduction of the euro and will give the single currency's opponents in the UK valuable ammunition.

Commentary, page 29

Business Today

Commentary: Not a word from our sponsor 29
Stock Markets: Alright reacts well 30
Equity prices: 33
Unit trusts: 32



Turkey shoot
South African exodus to London may be an exodus too far
Page 31

FTSE 100	8101.4	(+53.1)
FTSE All Share	2804.10	(+22.2)
Nickel	14163.45	(+13.06)
New York Dow Jones	8434.52	(+158.65)
S&P Composite	1244.29	(+16.59)

US RATE	4.75%	(5.75%)
Federal Funds	4.75%	(5.75%)
10-year bond	5.89%	(5.70%)

STERLING	115.43	(115.47)
New York	1.5065	(1.5142)
London	1.5078	(1.5177)
Frankfurt	1.4847	(1.4819)
Paris	2.3620	(2.3623)
Yen	198.40	(195.69)
Yen (old)	102.6	(102.5)

US\$	1.0825	(1.0884)
London	1.0825	(1.0884)
Frankfurt	1.0825	(1.0884)
Paris	1.0825	(1.0884)

1.6078	(1.5177)
1.4847	(1.4818)
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198.40	(196.66)

US\$	1.0825	(1.0884)
London	1.0825	(1.0884)
Frankfurt	1.0825	(1.0884)
Paris	1.0825	(1.0884)

5Ft	1.4700*	(1.4812)
Yen	123.50*	(121.77)
\$ Index	109.7	(108.8)

Tokyo close Yen 123.60

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brut 15-day May	\$11.75 \$11.45

GOLD		
London close	\$287.85	(\$288.85)

Exchange rates	Page 28
<hr/>	
US\$	1.0825 (1.0884)
London	1.0825 (1.0884)
Frankfurt	1.0825 (1.0884)
Paris	1.0825 (1.0884)

Market outlines

strategy

THE Mirror Group yesterday
pelted out its manifesto for inde-
pendence as rival bidders for

Investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (Raymond Spoddy writes).

over cent increase in pre-tax profits to £100 million before exceptionals. John Allwood

We are not going to sit around like turkeys waiting for Christmas."

will concentrate on newspaper and magazine publishing that means the sale of its 20

Media Group, which could bring in more than £100 million on an additional £40 million

Central London headquarters
nd up to £15 million of sav
age from scanning the

The MMC is investigating approaches from two local paper companies, Trinity and B...

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Royal & Sun under fire over dividend

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

PowerGen warns of £100m hit

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

POWERGEN gave warning yesterday that profits would be cut by at least £100 million this year because of poor returns in the electricity market and the forced sales of power stations.

The generator said £60 million would come off profits when it disposes of two power stations and that it had taken a £40 million knock in January and February from reduced demand for electricity and greater competition. There was also a £40 million reduction in December in power trading.

Some of the problem stems from a reduction in payments for keeping power stations available. This will worsen when the market is reformed.

PowerGen plunged to a £245 million loss for the nine months to December 31 after taking a £337 million charge for renegotiating expensive gas contracts. The City had expected a loss of £215 million. Pre-tax profits before exceptional charges fell 22 per cent to 292 million, compared with the previous nine months.

Earnings per share before exceptional charges fell from 44.3p to 38.5p. The final dividend, payable on May 13, was set at 14.1p making a total of 24.1p, an 11 per cent increase on a full-year basis.

City does not understand us, says Vickers chief

By PAUL ARMSTRONG

VICKERS, the marine engineer and tank manufacturer, yesterday accused the stock market of failing to understand its defence division, which provided almost 40 per cent of the company's revenues last year.

Paul Buissey, chief executive, said City analysts and investors did not appreciate the strength of the industry to the same extent as their counterparts in France, Germany and America.

"There is a negative perception here that surprised me," said M Buissey, a Belgian who took the top job at Vickers last year.

Analysts say Vickers's defence division is largely to blame for the slump in the company's share price from 230p in June to yesterday's price of 148p, down 1p on the day.

The value of outstanding defence contracts on Vickers's books has fallen to about £500 million from £800 million a year ago, mainly because of orders for the Challenger 2 tank being filled.

M Buissey said the division's best hope of winning a major contract rested with the Greek Government, which is expected to call tenders for a £1.5 billion-plus order within weeks. Vickers said it is also pursuing several UK defence contracts worth up to £100 million each.



Paul Buissey said analysts and investors in Britain did not appreciate the strength of the defence industry

Vickers announced yesterday that its pre-tax profit for 1998 leapt to £157 million from £19.4 million in 1997 after booking profits of £162 million on the sale of several businesses, including Rolls-Royce Motor

Cars. Operating profit before exceptional losses was £42.1 million, down from £75.8 million previously, on the back of a 25 per cent fall in turnover to £892.5 million. On a continuing operations basis, however, turnover was up 2.6 per cent at £692 million.

A final dividend of 4.5p was declared, taking the full-year payout to an unchanged 7.2p.

M Buissey said a strong order book would ensure an "excellent" year for Vickers's marine division, which provided 22 per cent of last year's turnover, though the division's earnings from the offshore oil industry would dip because of the weak oil price.

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Biocompatibles extends warrants

BIOCOMPATIBLES INTERNATIONAL, the medical coatings company that must raise more money by the end of the year, is optimistically extending the exercise date of warrants that could bring in £20 million. The warrants, which were due to expire at the end of April, are exercisable at 80p and will be worthless unless shares in Biocompatibles climb at least £1 higher than their current 82p. Biocompatibles, once valued at £1 billion but now capitalised at less than £80 million, intends to extend the warrants until December, but is also considering raising money by an issue of debt.

The company yesterday reported increased 1998 losses of £43.7 million (£28.1 million), but Crispin Simon, chief executive, said: "We are in the process of rehabilitation. We can make a lot of progress in rebuilding credibility." The focus is on the rising sales in coated contact lenses and blood vessel supports, which last year rose by 57 per cent to £9.5 million.

US Bill approved

THE US Senate Banking Committee voted to support a Bill to modernise the banking industry that Democrats said would draw a veto from President Clinton. The bill was championed by Phil Gramm, the committee chairman. It is one of a long series of efforts to overhaul Depression-era banking laws by breaking down barriers between banks, insurance companies and brokerages. Mr Clinton, who said on Wednesday he would veto the Bill, objects to what is seen as a weakening of requirements for banks to lend in poor areas.

Free Internet access

UK CONSUMERS will next week be offered free Internet access with free local calls for the first time, as part of a trial service. The service, both a marketing exercise and a test of public reaction to such an offer, will be launched by The X-Stream Network, the private Canadian company that launched a free Internet access service in the UK 12 months ago and prompted Dixons, the electrical retail group, to launch its own free access service, Freeserve. X-Stream said the free service would be available on March 8 only, between 6pm and midnight.

Prague losses mount

LOSSES at Prague Breweries, in which Bass has a controlling interest, quadrupled last year from almost £4 million to about £16 million as the Czech recession and brewery closures took their toll. Turnover was flat at just over £400 million, while volumes suffered a 6 per cent decline. The company had planned to raise funds through a rights issue. However, the minority shareholders have blocked the move and set up an action group to protect their interests. The group described Bass's management performance as "unacceptable".

Sanderson set to spend

SANDERSON BRAMALL said it has at least £20 million to buy rival car dealers and is seeking suitable ones in the Midlands and Yorkshire. The group, which last year paid £37 million for Charles Sidney, mainly sells Ford cars, but said that despite the US manufacturer's decision to buy Ford dealerships, it has had no approach. Its shares rose 17p to 203p, a seven-month high, as it unveiled 1998 pre-tax profits of £17.1 million, up from £15.6 million. Headline earnings per share were 31.7p (27.8p). A 4.23p final dividend makes 6.35p (5.52p).

Glycosciences database

OXFORD GLYSCSCIENCES will shortly launch the first of three databases of its protein expertise that it is developing with Incyte Pharmaceuticals, the American company that already earns substantial revenues from leading drug groups. Glycosciences is also working with Pfizer to identify proteins to measure the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease. This collaboration is potentially worth \$50 million (£31 million). Increased research spending of £13.2 million led to increased annual losses of £8.7 million (£7.6 million).

Dorman appointed

BT and AT&T have appointed David Dorman, former chief executive of Pacific Bell, the US telecoms company, to run their new \$10 billion (£6 billion) international joint venture. Mr Dorman, 45, is currently chairman and chief executive of PointCast, the company that provides broadcast news on the Internet. It is the combination of telecommunications and Internet experience that has won him one of the top jobs in international telecommunications. The new venture will include all the international operations of BT and AT&T.

MFI sees sales slump

MFI FURNITURE yesterday revealed the extent of the trading problems that precipitated the departure of John Randall as chief executive last week. Sales at UK stores were down 20 per cent on last year in the four months to March 1. This was partly due to the company moving away from sales of small household goods. But sales of continuing products, mainly kitchens and bedrooms, were also down a steep 12.5 per cent in the same period. Total sales were down 13 per cent in the period, with total continuing product sales down 6 per cent.

Vehicle numbers fall

COMMERCIAL vehicle (CV) registrations in February fell 43.6 per cent to 12,462, the Society of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said yesterday. Every sector of the CV industry was down year-on-year. Registrations of light 4x4 utility vehicles fell 59.4 per cent to just 480. CV registrations so far this year are 27.4 per cent lower than for the first two months of last year. The SMMT blamed the March registration plate change and uncertainty over vehicle excise duty ahead of next week's Budget.

Eurostar cuts passenger aim

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EUROSTAR, the international train service, has given up its "unrealistic" target of increasing passenger numbers beyond ten million a year after seeing operating losses still running at £90 million.

New management brought in last year to rescue the loss-making service has formally abandoned the founder company's original growth forecasts and is concentrating instead on revenue increases.

Although Eurostar cut operating losses last year by £40 million from the £130 million of 1997, it said that heavy discounting of tickets will be more limited in future. However, management is optimistic of breaking even by 2005.

Eurostar passengers increased by 6 per cent to 6.3 million last year, and revenues rose by 29 per cent to £350 million. The company, which has been separated from the Channel Tunnel rail link consortium, and is now run by National Express and British Airways, said that the revenue rise came on the back of significant growth in business traffic, especially on the London-Brussels route.

The company says that it is now reaching a yield per passenger of £62, well up on the £39 low in 1997, when prices were heavily discounted. Hamish Taylor, Eurostar managing director, said: "The passenger targets that had been set were totally unrealistic and it has been demoralising to staff to see that we are nowhere near those levels."

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BAA agrees Eurotunnel shops deal

By CARL MORTISHED

BAA has taken up the challenge to turn the Eurotunnel terminuses at Dover and Calais into airport-style shopping malls. The owner of Heathrow and Gatwick has agreed a contract worth about £100 million per year to take over the management of Eurotunnel's existing shops and extend the retailing space.

BAA will operate the retail facilities through World Duty Free on a profit sharing basis with Eurotunnel.

Brian Collie, BAA's retail director, said the UK and French terminal shops would generate about £100 million of revenue, assuming that duty-free retailing was abolished, as planned, on June 30. Eurotunnel generates about £190 million a year from its shops.

Pressure on oil explorers

By CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S struggling independent oil explorers will come under greater pressure to merge with rivals or sell out when the Oil Exploration and Production sector is abolished from the FTSE stock market indices.

FTSE International plans to fold the oil explorers into an enlarged oil sector where the seven British independents will be dwarfed by two multinationals, BP Amoco and Shell Transport & Trading. The seven E&P stocks are together worth just over £3 billion, compared with a combined value of £116 billion for BP Amoco and Shell.

The change will make it increasingly difficult for E&P stocks to attract investor interest. Caroline Cook, analyst at

BT Alex Brown, said: "With no stocks in the FTSE 100 index, interest in the upstream looks set to wane."

Companies such as Lasso and Enterprise Oil, currently in merger talks, may come under pressure to pay more dividends. FTSE International said the sector was too small to justify its continued existence.

The change is part of a radical overhaul to bring the FTSE into line with pan-European indices. The All-share index has changed almost beyond recognition over the past two decades. In 1978, it boasted sectors such as Toys and Games, Textiles, Shipping, Hire Purchase, Mining Finance, Discount Houses and Overseas Traders.

Grocery bills to increase

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SUPERMARKET customers can expect to see their bills continue to rise despite the latest price war after evidence emerged that manufacturers of branded goods have been raising their prices.

Archie Norman, chairman of Asda, said yesterday that certain manufacturers have been pushing up prices by between 5 and 8 per cent over the past three months. Lever Brothers, the producers of Persil washing powder, said it is introducing rises averaging 3.2 per cent, its first price increases in a year.

One food retailing analyst said he expects prices to begin edging higher. "There is some seasonal food inflation and the manufacturers price rises to take into account."

Arnault offers deal to Gucci

By FRASER NELSON

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, has offered to call a truce with rival Gucci. M. Arnault, who has 34.4 per cent of Gucci, has offered not to buy more shares if it allows an LVMH-nominated director to join its supervisory board.

Gucci, however, said LVMH had failed to allow its fears that M. Arnault could still take control of the company without paying for a full takeover.

The negotiations come after M. Arnault tried to sue Gucci for issuing new shares which have neutralised any voting powers his stake could command. On Wednesday, an Amsterdam court told the two they should try to negotiate. It froze M. Arnault's voting rights and those of Gucci's new shares, asking them to return on April 22 if nothing is agreed.

Knives are out over dinner

SAATCHI & SAATCHI, formerly the advertising agency of choice for Mrs Thatcher's administration, has found itself embroiled in a scandal that threatens the stability of the New Zealand Government (writes Jason Nisbet).

On August 31 last year Kevin Roberts, chief executive

of Saatchi & Saatchi, was in New Zealand and had dinner with Jenny Shipley, the country's Prime Minister.

The two met the next day, and a few weeks later the New Zealand tourist board won a massive increase in its budget at a time when most other public services were facing cuts.

Most of this budget increase is being devoted to a NZ\$30 million (about £10 million) advertising campaign, run by Saatchi & Saatchi.

Mrs Shipley has faced calls for her resignation in the New Zealand Parliament over what is being called "Dinnergate". The country's equivalent of the National Audit Office has launched an investigation.

Mr Roberts and Mrs Shipley have denied there were links between the dinner and the funding increase. They say they are old friends from when Mr Roberts lived in New Zealand.

Swiss Federal Railways SBB
Real Estate Management

SBB CFF FFS

The railway stations of the SBB are not only the hubs for the users of public transport. Also outside the statutory business hours of shops, a varied range of commodity and service offers is at the disposal of travellers and passers-by. Not least of them are the automatic photo machines.

The exclusive lease of surface spaces for the installation and operation of

Automatic photo machines in SBB Stations

is newly put out to tender as from 1st January 2000.

The invitation to tender is effected voluntarily, and is not subject to the WTO agreement.

Deadline for the bids: 30th April 1999

The requirement specification for bids will gladly be sent to potential bidders. For further information, please feel free to contact our Mr. Beat-G Schwarz.

**Swiss Federal Railways SBB
Real Estate Management
Postal Box
CH-3052 Zollikofen/Switzerland**

Telefon (+41) 512 20 37 04
Telefax (+41) 512 20 32 95
E-Mail beat-gaudenz.schwarz@sbb.ch

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.68	2.50
Austria Sch	21.43	19.77
Belgium Fr	63.10	58.14
Canada \$	2.572	2.394
Cyprus Cyp £	0.9031	0.8316
Denmark Kr	11.63	10.74
Egypt £	5.70	5.09
Finland Mk	9.86	8.63
France Fr	10.21	9.43
Germany Dm	3.068	2.826
Greece Dr	594	485
Hong Kong \$	13.29	12.09
Iceland	129	109
Indonesia	17951	12951
Ireland P	1.2240	1.1350
Israel Sh	10.86	9.70
Italy Lit	3051	2814
Japan Yen	213.81	196.28
Malaysia	0.672	0.613
Netherlands Gld	3.463	3.168
New Zealand \$	3.19	2.95
Norway Kr	13.37	12.43
Portugal Esc	310.26	288.23
S Africa R	268.58	238.79
Spain Ptas	166.64	153.66
Sweden Kr	14.10	13.00
Switzerland Fr	2.514	2.296
Turkey Lira	594159	554967
USA \$	1.715	1.572

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Hillsdown

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And now, not a word from our sponsor



COMMENTARY

by our City Editor

Today the Dome will echo with joyful celebrations. Panfaires will sound and new sponsors will be revealed. Scenics will be assured that the money is veritably pouring down the Thames to Greenwich and that the Dome's demands on the public purse will not exceed the original budget. Mr Blair's man on the case, his old friend Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has declared categorically that the target of £150 million in commercial sponsorship will be reached.

But when it comes to negotiating sponsorship deals, the New Millennium Experience Company has not been in the strongest of positions. In fact, it has become increasingly desperate, a fact not wasted on the commercial organisations on the other side of the negotiating table. They are not all buying their place in the Dome publicity with hard cash.

The Comptroller and Auditor General, Sir John Bourn, has already voiced his doubts over whether the Dome's sums will add up. An analysis of the sponsorship arrangements would be unlikely to provide him with comfort. For the figures that are being broadcast do not all represent new money destined for getting the Dome up and running. Much of the apparently pledged funds are headed for promotional campaigns up and down the country, which may not be so far removed from the sort of promotional efforts that the organisations regularly undertake.

The Dome accounts do allow £50 million for Dome-related millennium projects around the country. Maybe that money was always destined to come off the £150 million sponsorship target. But that would leave at least two-thirds of the sponsorship money heading towards Greenwich and that does not seem to be the case.

There is a degree of cynicism on the subject which has prompted John Redwood, the Opposition spokesman on Trade and Industry, to table some probing questions. Among them, he might like to ask why Stansted is to be the millennium airport rather than the one down in Docklands. Could it be that BAA had determined to spend £12 million on the airport anyway? Well, now that money is part of the £6 million proclaimed as BAA sponsorship. In fact, just £3 million is going to the Dome; the remaining £3 million will sponsor the Millennium Youth Games.

Marks & Spencer is a £12 million sponsor. That breaks down into just £6 million for Greenwich and £6 million for the Children's Promise project, a worthy fundraising effort but not one that will fund the Dome. British Aerospace is another £6 million sponsor, which is only committing £3 million to Greenwich.

The companies are not to be blamed for squeezing the best possible deals out of the organisers. They have decided, or been persuaded, in some cases even by Mr Blair himself, that they should back the big project. But they are being careful with their cash. Does advertising in the Dome guide count as sponsorship? If just might. In which case, Sir John has reason to fear for the public purse.

Euro's nightmare scenario unfolds

Euro's nightmare scenario has not taken long to unfold. After just two months, Wim Duisenberg has felt obliged to concede that the economies so painfully corseted together by having to meet the Maastricht convergence rules already seem to be diverging once more. While countries such as Ireland and Spain benefit to an embarrassing degree from the big cuts from their previous inter-

est rates, euroland's German powerhouse appears to be drifting ineluctably into a recession.

Mr Duisenberg is indulging in a classic piece of English understatement when he says that the German slowdown complicates monetary policy. Whatever may happen in the future, it is plain that a key argument of the euro's critics is correct. No single interest rate is yet suitable for the whole of the eurozone.

Oskar Lafontaine's call for "a policy mix for growth" has certainly gained credibility from the revelation that the German economy shrank by 0.4 per cent in the last quarter of 1998. Compare the slight rise in the worse-placed UK economy, Asia and Russia are hurting an economy where manufacturing still matters.

The ECB argues that Germany's troubles are structural, not cyclical, in order to justify its resistance to German bullying. Emphasising independence is clearly a vital plank in building ECB credibility.

A glance at the foreign ex-

changes shows that there is a long way to go. An 8 per cent drop against the dollar and 5 per cent against sterling was not what the euroland fathers had in mind for the first two months.

The bickering has not helped. Mr Duisenberg understandably called on politicians to help steady the ship and rebuild confidence in the new currency. The thought remains, not just in Herr Lafontaine's mind, that if it were not for the euro, the Bundesbank would be cutting rates now.

Supporting structural changes must take time. Strong nerves will be needed if the first serious challenge is not to blight the new currency permanently. But entrenched positions should be avoided.

Another pressure point will come in two weeks' time. Next month's ECB meetings look more crucial. By then the European Commission should have slashed growth forecasts for the region as a whole. That will give France and Germany ammunition to intensify pressure on the

ECB to cut rates. They should not use it. At this stage the ECB is likely to delay a cut too long if it feels it would otherwise be giving in. Whatever it does, the resulting policy will cause trouble for some part or another of euro-

Rolls-Royce and Robins reliant

There is a story, perhaps apocryphal, that has Sir Ralph Robins, the chairman of Rolls-Royce plc, the aero engineer, visiting an Eastern potentate, Sir Ralph arrives, only to be quizzed about life in the luxury car trade.

If he had been interested in truly world-class products, the royal would have done his homework and asked about aircraft engines instead. While Rolls-Royce cars live off a reputation earned decades ago, Rolls-Royce plc is about here and now.

Next year, 80 per cent of deliveries should be designs born in the past decade. In an industry dominated by the eternal success of the Boeing 747, this is impressive. Rolls has taken currency fluctuations on the chin. Neither does John Rose, the chief executive, waste time moaning about

interest rates nor the productivity levels of the British workforce. His commitment to keeping the UK an aerospace powerhouse cannot be questioned.

Yet, despite wrenching market share from Pratt & Whitney and General Electric, Rolls is still the subject of suspicion in some quarters of the City. Analysts seem determined to find fault, some suggesting Rolls is selling engines too cheaply in the hope of a profit on spares and repairs, others even carping that Rolls might make such good engines that they will destroy their own aftermarket for spares and maintenance. Rolls's response is to let the figures tell the truth.

The company yesterday met its target of double-digit earnings growth. If it can do so again next year, investors might be forced to acknowledge that the company is doing something right.

Nott done

WHEN Sir John Nott took on the chairmanship of Hillsdown six years ago, the hope was that the former Defence Secretary would rapidly refine the extraordinary bundle of businesses that Sir Harry Solomon had assembled. Not quite. He waited until last year to demerge the housebuilder, Fairview, and Terranova chilled foods, driven to action by the failure of takeover talks with Unigate. Now Sir John is moving on, Hillsdown still combines furniture, poultry and Chivers jams. A dog's breakfast.

Williams in danger of FTSE exit

By PAUL DURMAN

WILLIAMS, the security and fire protection group, is in danger of losing its place in the FTSE 100 list of Britain's leading companies.

Concern that Williams will shortly lose the support of index-tracking funds contributed to a 16p fall in its share price yesterday to 348p. The company, one of the star performers of the 1980s, is now worth £2.5 billion — making it substantially smaller than EMAP, Energis, Misy and South African Breweries, all of which are currently outside the FTSE 100.

Williams has recast itself as a service group, and yesterday pointed to growth of 21 per cent in sales and 24 per cent in profits from its security systems and service group. Roger Carr, chief executive, plans that service businesses should grow from 40 to 60 per cent of the group over the next two years. Some analysts remain sceptical. One said: "As ever" with

Williams, there's a quite interesting 'jam tomorrow' story. But fund managers are less trusting than they were ten years ago.

Underlying operating profits improved by 6 per cent to £302 million last year. The £170 million Williams made on the sale of its DIY fillers and coatings to ICI and of its NuTone business in the US enabled it to increase pre-tax profits from £254 million to £462.5 million.

Williams is expected to receive another £300 million from the flotation of Robbi-lac, its Portuguese paint company, and of its regional paint companies in the US.

The group said its continuing businesses, which include Yale locks, Chubb alarm systems and Kidde fire extinguishers, increased sales by 6 per cent and profits by 11 per cent at constant currencies. A final dividend of 10.04p a share lifts the total by 31 per cent to 16.29p.

Nott to step down at Hillsdown

By ROBERT COLE

SIR JOHN NOTT, the former Tory Defence Secretary, is to retire from Hillsdown Holdings, the troubled food group (See Commentary, this page).

Sir John has been at the helm of Hillsdown for nearly six years, during which time the sprawling conglomerate built by Sir Harry Solomon, his predecessor, has been dismembered. Sir John will be replaced by a non-executive chairman, Peter Jacobs, formerly chief executive of healthcare provider BUPA.

Hillsdown yesterday reported a fall in underlying pre-tax profits from £100.5 million to £80.2 million. Poor conditions in the poultry business were blamed for the decline.

Pay-TV merger is off

By RAYMOND SNOODY

PLANS for a £14 billion merger of BSkyB and France's Canal Plus, Europe's two biggest pay-television operators, have been abandoned.

Two serious problems quickly emerged. One was disagreement over who should run the merged entity and the different management styles of the French and of the Americans, Britons and Australians who run BSkyB.

The second was the position of News International, owner of The Times and 40 per cent owner of BSkyB. A merger with Canal Plus would have diluted News International's BSkyB stake. EU regulations also needed to be satisfied.

Elementis sees tough trading

By MARTIN BARROW

ELEMENTIS, the specialty chemicals company that emerged from the restructuring of Harrison & Crosfield, yesterday gave warning that the difficult trading conditions of 1998 had continued into the first two months of the current year and were unlikely to improve in the short-term.

Lyndon Cole, chief executive, said: "We are under no illusions as to the competitive conditions we face, particularly given the uncertainty over the outlook for the global economy."

The company yesterday reported a rise in operating profits to £61.5 million in 1998, from £44.7 million in the previous year. Sales from continuing operations rose to £534.2

million, from £471.5 million. Adjusted earnings per share were 9p, up from 8.8p previously. The total dividend is lifted to 3p a share, from 3.6p, with a final 3p.

Elementis has emerged from 18 months of restructuring, during which the company has divested itself of interests in seven non-core businesses, raising £626 million. The company has returned £402 million of capital to its shareholders and spent £277.8 million on the acquisition of Rheox, a specialty chemicals company.

Although the restructuring was designed to unlock shareholder value, the shares have not performed well. Yesterday they rose 14p to 75p, compared with 17p in mid-1998.

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Trains

South Africa's corporate chicken run may turn into a turkey shoot

The exodus to London could be an exposure too far, says

Jon Ashworth

During the apartheid years, London was big on Marxist exiles and light on home-grown South African delights such as Outspan oranges and Castle lager. Few would admit to holidaying in South Africa and no one supported the Springboks.

How times change. Today, the freedom fighters have gone home. Londoners can't move for South African labels and Cape Town has become the destination of choice. South African household names such as Anglo American and South African Breweries (SAB) have started springing up on the London Stock Exchange. For the estimated 300,000 to 400,000 South Africans living and working in Britain, this makes for a curious sense of déjà vu.

SAB, which brews Castle lager, is the latest in a line of big South African blue chip names to seek a primary listing in London. Anglo American makes its London debut in May, and Old Mutual, the Cape Town-based insurance group, could follow in June, pending approval from members, who vote on demutualisation on March 11.

All three are expected to win a place in the FTSE 100 index of leading shares, following a lead set by Genor, the mining group, which spun off its base metals interests into Billiton in July 1997. Billiton, arrived with a bang, but has since seen its shares slide on weak metal prices, proving that membership of the FTSE 100 does not guarantee success.

The predominance of tracker funds ensures demand for FTSE 100 shares, but some UK fund managers are less than thrilled about this enforced exposure to South Africa — technically an emerging market. Such is the dominance of the companies involved that an entire chunk of South Africa — at a stroke — is being relocated to London.

The feeling among "ordinary" South Africans, white and black, is that the big boys are bailing out. As one Johannesburg banker put it: "The economy has not been good in the last 12 to 18 months. The man in the street is saying: 'These guys are off to London, and we are stuck here.' Among reasonably well-informed professionals, there is definitely a perception that these companies are getting out."

This, then, is a late-Nineties version of what used to be called the "chicken run". In the final years of apartheid rule, white South Africans who emigrated were branded towards for fitting the copy.

As a student in South Africa in 1965, I remember the shock when a group of white businessmen broke ranks to meet African National Congress leaders in Lusaka. This was a time of extreme paranoia, when even a hint of subver-



Graham Mackay is sensitive to charges that SAB has deserted South Africa



Sol Kerzner, the Sun City pioneer, with Naomi Campbell, the supermodel

sion could lead to your being arrested and detained without trial. The late Gavin Kelly of Anglo American, who led the contingent, became an enraged Pretoria's equivalent of "Frankie Jones".

Business took the initiative then, and is doing the same again now, even if for economic rather than political reasons. With a selective loosening of foreign exchange controls, it was inevitable that Anglo and its bedfellows would go in search of new sources of capital.

Some see parallels with Hong Kong, from where Jardine Matheson moved its domicile to Bermuda in 1984 — the year Britain signed its agreement to hand back the colony to China. The listings of Jardine group companies were shifted to Singapore in 1995. The moves were greeted with anger in Beijing.

In London, South African companies have a stock market that is highly liquid and which gives them ready access to foreign pounds and dollars. Jan Newman, managing director of SG Hambros South Africa, said: "They are gaining efficiency in terms of raising capital and internationalising themselves."

Johannesburg has long been dominated by big-name players, such as SAB, Anglo American, Rembrandt and Genor. Blocked from investing overseas, the big groups took stakes in each other, making for a notoriously illiquid stock market.

This is changing as companies unbuckle themselves, but not fast enough for some.

Genor embarked on just such an unbundling exercise in the early 1990s, hiving off interests including Engen (the former Mobil oil in South Africa) and Sappi, the paper group. SAB is seeking to do the same, but remains typically South African in its diverse spread of holdings.

Money from all those Castle cans has been channelled into soft drinks, hotels and gaming and shopping centres. SAB owns Southern Sun, the hotels group built up by Sol Kerzner, the Sun City pioneer. Southern Sun holds the local Holiday Inn franchise, has a 50 per cent stake in a casino operator, and owns nearly 20 per cent of

Edgars, a department store group.

Graham Mackay, SAB's group chief executive, is sensitive to charges that the company has deserted South Africa. "We would have languished in South Africa and lost our growth prospects," he said. "There will be a lot of deals in this industry and we either have to take part or be a spectator."

Anglo American is merging with Minoro, its Luxembourg-registered cousin, to create a £6 billion entity, Anglo American plc. Known for its gold, diamonds, platinum and coal, Anglo represents a broad cross-section of South African life. Its interests span forestry (Mondi), car assembly (Samsco), sugar (Tongaat-Hulett), construction

(ITA), financial services (FirstRand), explosives (AECI) and wine estates (Vergelegen).

These are all household names in South Africa. The new-look Anglo will present itself as a global mining and natural resources company with related industrial activities. It is engaged in simplifying its arcane corporate structure, which is intimately bound up with De Beers, the diamonds group, and the interests of the Oppenheimer family.

Anglo says that the move to London will allow it to compete more effectively on the world stage and exploit new business opportunities. Listing particulars are due next month and dealings are expected to commence on May 25.

Old Mutual has negligible overseas interests, making this the most controversial of the newcomers. Fund managers have expressed unease about buying in a company so heavily exposed to South Africa. It has a token UK presence, owning two private client stockbrokers, Capel-Cure Myers and Albert E Sharp, and selling unit trusts, but relies on South Africa for 90 per cent of its sales.

Other companies with their eye on London include Barlows (industrial), Del Monte (food), Sasol (oil-from-coal) and a clutch of IT companies: Dimension Data (Didata), Compaq, Datatec and Exchange.

Interesting as all this is, one cannot escape the feeling that the only winners in this scenario

are the companies themselves. While Anglo and the rest load up on pounds and dollars, shareholders back home remain trapped by restrictive exchange controls.

South Africa's economy is in poor shape, with little sign of the much anticipated foreign investment. Crime is as big a problem as ever, and Nelson Mandela's departure from political life heralds a fresh period of uncertainty. Elections are due on June 2.

There is also no guarantee that Pretoria will relax its grip indefinitely. Trevor Manuel, the Finance Minister, has said that applicants will not automatically be granted the right to move to London. Those that do — like Billiton before them — may find their confidence in tracker funds has been somewhat overdone. The great corporate chicken run may yet turn into a turkey shoot.



Kelly: met with ANC in 1985



Manuel: no guarantees

Backtrack

RICHARD KALMS, son of Dixons chairman Sir Stanley Kalms, is poised to rekindle his working relationship with the electrical retailer — nine years after he quit as corporate affairs director to plough his own furrow.

ITIS, a privately owned traffic information provider, has persuaded Kalms Jr to become a non-executive director alongside the former Tory Transport Minister, Steven Norris. His role will be to oversee the alliance announced yesterday between ITIS and Minorplan, the quaintly named maker of vehicle-management sys-

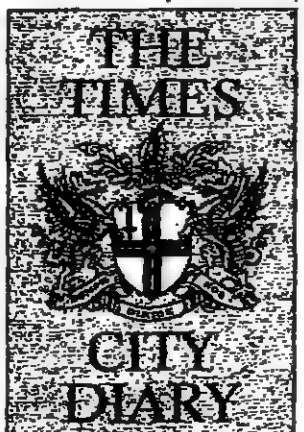
tems that is listed on AIM. Specifically, he will help ITIS to persuade Dixons to stock its products, which include security tracking devices for cars.

Since he left Dixons in 1990, Mr Kalms has spent most of his time at Union Pictures, a TV and film production company. But he sold out last year to set up his own Internet consultancy called Hi Technology Ventures. "I consider myself the personal Internet adviser to Sir Stanley Kalms," he joked. "I tell him which buttons to press." And, by the sound of it, which car-tracking devices to stock.



"I don't like the sound of it"

WILDE Septe, the City law firm, was celebrating on Monday night after its football team won the London Legal Football League, thus bringing to an end the dominance of Grays Inn, champions for the past four years. Wilde Septe clinched the title with a 2-0 win over Slaughter and May — a particular pleasure for centre-half Bruce Macleod, the firm's grandly titled director of know-how, who previously worked at Slaughter and May and was up against several former colleagues and team-mates.



Arch rival?

I AM told that if there is one thing that William Hague hates it is Archie Norman reminding people that he once gave the Conservative leader a job.

But our Archie, who is not only chairman of Asda but also chief executive of the Tories (and apparently known to some at Central Office as "that Grocer"), cannot help himself. At the Retail Week conference yesterday he was at it again, confiding to the audience of several hundred: "I recruited him for a job once. I interviewed him at McKinsey and he worked for us as a consultant."

Norman went on to deny

that he harboured any ambitions to become Tory leader. A sure sign that he is gradually becoming more of a politician than a retailer.

Cutting edge

NEWS reaches me that Sanyo, the giant Japanese electronics group, has developed a revolutionary new bread-cutting board called "Bread plus". This fine product is made from ABS plastic (whatever that is) and has cunningly designed sides to hold a loaf of bread in place while you cut it. On its product website, Sanyo points out that the board is "YZK compliant". So, for that matter, is my old bread board, but I suppose it is not at the cutting edge of technology.

Telling word

AT yesterday's Mirror Group presentation to analysts, new chief executive John Allwood was asked whether any further thought had been given to changing the name of the company. Just at that moment a mobile phone — that of Richard Dale of Salomon Smith Barney — went off, giving a fine rendition of the William Tell overture.

"We're thinking of calling it the William Tell Company," piped Allwood without missing a beat — prompting the

first round of applause for the Mirror Group from analysts for many a long year.

I HAD always assumed that Blooms of Bressingham, the garden centre chain owned by Flying Flowers, was named after its principal product. I couldn't have been more wrong. Yesterday's announcement that the firm is to be sold to a management buy-in team for £17 million informs me that Adrian Bloom, the gardening pioneer and the firm's founder, is to become honorary president of the new business.

DOMINIC WALSH

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Norman: same old story

BUSINESS LETTERS

Outdoor team-building event is pleasing clients

From Mr Andrew Finan

Sir, *The Times* recently claimed ("Dramatic change to art of team building", *Business Life*, February 6) that organisations engaging in practical management development were turning away from outdoor team-building events to more artistic pursuits such as barefoot dancing and reading Shakespeare. Our statistics show otherwise.

Our company organises the Securicor Challengers Trophy, the UK's largest inter-business outdoor training event, and last year the number of teams taking part in the event grew by 50 per cent to 88 teams. This year we already have over 70 companies booked and are heading for a sell-out event by June. The number of women taking part last year grew by 270 per cent.

Our success lies in delivering a balance of physical, intel-

lectual and practical challenges that are best tackled as a team and are within the reach of anyone who is reasonably fit. The formula works for our clients. Over 85 per cent of companies come back the following year, while 100 per cent say they reach their corporate objectives. We count Microsoft, BT, Lloyds TSB, Cable & Wireless, Cisco, BP and Orange among our customers.

Barefoot dancing and reading Shakespeare might be just fine for some. However, if corporations wish to build stronger teams then outdoor management training offers proven benefits and is certainly more popular.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW FINAN
(Director, Challenger UK Marketing, London, Sponsorship Bureau International),
Grosvenor Gardens House,
35-37 Grosvenor Gardens,
London SW1W 0BS.

Programme sponsorship continues

From the Director of Sponsorship, Carlton Television

Sir, Contrary to the article which appeared in the Media section of *The Times* on February 19, *The Sun* is continuing its sponsorship of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* for the next series.

Your remarks on ITV increasing the price are also incorrect: the levels of investment required for the show have not changed since it was first transmitted last September.

However, the relationship

with *The Sun* has changed. In the first series *The Sun* was partner in assisting ITV to promote the show to potential participants. Since that time, *The Sun* has continued its association with the programme as a broadcast sponsor and has purchased the right to run its own interactive game through the paper.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PROSSER,
Director of Sponsorship,
Carlton Television,
101 St Martin's Lane,
London WC2.

Developers declare open Wharfare

From the Chairman of The British Land Company

Sir, We were amused to see the comment attributed to George Iacobescu, chief executive of the Canary Wharf Group, in *The Times* of March 2, that "I looked at the design of Plantation House (a City development). What happens if someone wants 700,000 sq ft instead of 500,000 sq ft?" Send them

along, Mr Iacobescu, send them along — and we will be entirely happy to provide them with 700,000 sq ft on our site in the heart of the City, well away from the boom-Docks!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RITBLAT,
Chairman,
The British Land Company,
10 Cornwall Terrace,
Regent's Park,
London NW1 4QP.

BA action could resurrect old names

From Mr Richard Griffith

Sir, Your report on March 1 that Virgin Atlantic is to adopt the Union Jack in a new design for its aircraft went on to say that to stem its market loss BA had begun an internal restructuring which would entail dividing the company into short-haul (UK and Europe) and long-haul businesses.

Might I presume to suggest British European Airways

and British Overseas Airways Corporation as being easily identifiable names for these two divisions which can be abbreviated to BEA and BOAC respectively for incorporation within the company logo.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GRIFFITH,
68 Grove Park Terrace,
Chiswick,
London W4 3JL.

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Equities enjoy late flurry

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

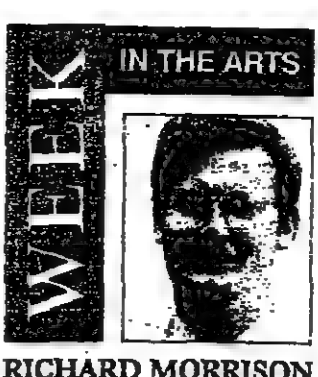
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Us peasants are revolting, aren't we?

Will this be the dinner party from hell? The talk will range from "is the book dead?" to our old friend "the tabloid of broadsheets" and that staple companion to the coffee and minis, "what's wrong with cultural elitism?" As for the talkers, if I merely whisper the words Bragg, Tusa, Adie and Humphreys — and add that there are 150 more where they came from — you will grasp the nature of the beast.

When these mighty minds have finished pondering "the tyranny of relevance" and lamenting "what happens to culture when those with authority and expertise bow on to discussing the question on everyone's lips," they will move on to discussing the tricky question of quality. We speak of little else in the pubs of Hendon. And on and on they will ramble, from 7pm to night until late on Sunday evening. For this is no dinner party. This is *Culture Wars: Dumbing Down. Wising Up?* — a conference at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith of such pretentious irre-

vance to the lives of the British population that it could well win this year's Turner Prize. And the fact that its co-sponsor is *Living Marxism* — or *LM* as the magazine coyly calls itself in these consensual times — gives it a lovely extra twist of irony, does it not? If I were a Marxist living at the end of the 20th century, I would be very wary of telling others what's wrong with their culture. I would look on my own works and despair.



RICHARD MORRISON

By producing tinkling little tunes over elementary harmonies, connoisseurs were horrified at this pandering to lowbrow taste. Yet within 20 years of Bach's death the boy Mozart had turned that new "bana" style into the most sublime sounds the world had ever known. Mozart, in other words, was a product of a "dumbed down" culture.

There's a moral in that somewhere, but I leave it to the deep thinkers at this weekend's conference to work out what it is. The second point is that although in a capitalist democracy the bulk of our culture is inevitably aimed at a mass audience, the fact is that "elitist" pursuits and "centres of excellence" not only survive but flourish. When I look around London and see its 40 theatres, its dozen top-flight orchestras, its grand museums, its huge newspaper and magazine industry, its armies of designers, writers, singers, hoofers and artists, I don't see a city of dreadful philistine night. On the contrary, I see a place where the popular and esoteric exist cheek-by-jowl in a glorious arcade whose pleasures could not be exhausted in a hundred lifetimes.

My third point? It's a message to the glum nostalgists who will undoubtedly dominate the portentous proceedings in Hammersmith. If you believe something is worth preserving, go out and fight for it. Don't mope around, moaning about "the tyranny of relevance". Follow the orchestras' example. No cultural organisations feel more beleaguered than them. Their grants are puny, they are battling to win the hearts of a generation that has been denied a reasonable musical education at school, and they are snubbed by the sad middle-aged rockers running this Government.

Is this dumbing down? I hardly think so. The music to be played in these unlikely venues ranges from Beethoven to the avant-garde. But of course the scheme does bow to that dreadful thing, "the tyranny of relevance". In effect orchestras are saying: "We can't watch passively as our audiences fade away; we've got to go out and play Pied Piper." It may work, or it may be the last gasp of a dying breed. With all my heart I hope it's the former. But either way, it's a lot better than sitting around bemoaning how the country's gone to the dogs.

Shed a tear for the finest poet of all

MUSIC: This weekend Goethe the lyricist will take over London's concert halls. Hilary Finch reports

One of the anecdotes which Lieber-lovers love to quote most is the one about the youthful Schubert sending off a parcel of his settings of Goethe's poems to the venerable master in Weimar — and hearing nothing more. Return to sender. Aha, they say, even Goethe, pompous old polymath that he was, had no idea of the lad's true genius. Perhaps he was just too busy polishing his quartet collection, working on his *Colour Theory*, writing *Faust*... Or maybe he saw all too well that Schubert's music was metamorphosing his words, taking them somewhere way beyond, on into unknown territory. The notorious snub to Schubert is one of the countless impalpables in a life which many writers have tried to penetrate imaginatively. For the English, Goethe — ever untranslatable, ever German — can still seem a baffling, far-distant figure. His novels have never been bestsellers; his plays are seldom staged. We know the *Faust* of Gounod, of Berlioz and of Liszt — to say nothing of the *Mefistofele* of Boito, soon to appear at the Coliseum — better than we know Goethe's own. It is, in fact, through music that many of us know Goethe at all; and music is the focus of a festival this weekend presented by the Festival Hall and the Goethe Institute to celebrate this year's 250th anniversary of the great man's birth.

Born while Bach was putting the finishing touches to his fugues, and dying even as Wagner began to look out to the far harmonic horizons, Goethe had strong, often idio-

syncratic, views on music. I asked the pianist Roger Vignoles, who devised tomorrow's concert, why two of the composers Goethe admired most — Zelter, an early song-writer, and Mozart — do not figure in the programme. Mozart, after all, was the only composer Goethe felt he would want to entrust with *Faust*.

"Yes," Vignoles says, "I imagined Goethe expected singing to be a deeply emotional activity."

agine that was because of *Don Giovanni* — there's a good bit of hellfire there! But Mozart set only one of Goethe's poems. Zelter, though, embodied the way Goethe felt words should be set to music. Goethe definitely saw music as the servant of the word, rather than vice versa.

So nobody will know quite how many boxes of tissues to bring for themselves or for the soprano Solveig Kringsjorn, the baritone Thomas Allen and the narrator Sam West as they emote their way through songs and readings from *Wilhelm Meister*, scented out the shifting responses to Goethe of Schubert, Schumann and Wolf.

For the first half of the evening, Vignoles has selected settings by Beethoven, Schubert and Liszt which, he says, "reveal the very heart of Goethe. I'm sure it was the sheer energy of his poetry which made it irresistible to these composers."

Schubert's famous setting of the horror ballad of that fatal night ride through the forest is spurned in favour of the less well-known "Loewe song". "Goethe might well have preferred it," Vignoles says. "Loewe preserves the poem's rhythmic structure much more closely, and follows the natural inflection of the words."



"If you come knowing not a word of Goethe," says the organiser of one of this weekend's concerts, "his presence will, I hope, leap out at you from the music"

Sibelius reborn

Lahti SO/Vänskä
Birmingham

Violin Concerto) presented not only in all clarity but also with apparently complete conviction. It would have been even more instructive to hear the original 1915 version of the Fifth Symphony. Of course, when a conductor can make as thrilling an effect as Vänskä

does in negotiating the awkward change of metre and tempo in the joined-up first movement of the 1919 version, it must be difficult to renounce the chance to do it. That is not the end of the work, however, and on this occasion it seemed that Vänskä and the Lahti SO did not have the stamina to push the advantage through and sustain the continuity to a full-scale heroic conclusion.

GERALD LARNER

A tepid tango

WHEN the programme compares a composer to Schubert, Duke Ellington, Mahler, a potency drug, Bertolt Brecht, and dirty clothes, you know someone is getting carried away. Astor Piazzolla's tango music seems to do that to people. The hall was packed, the audience hued no doubt by Gidon Kremer's two Piazzolla CDs and the tango's new eminence at the height of world music fashion. Attention was rapt. Kremer walked on with his violin, and throbbed, swooped and lurched through two solo études. Other instruments gathered: a viola, a cello, a second violin. Then a long thin Lithuanian dancer, Eglė Spokaitė, added her pennyworth to *Milonga per Tre*. Finally Marcelo Nisimman showed up with his bandoneon, spooning its sweet and sour sauce over the music.

The dancer was an obvious mistake. It takes two to tango, after all: passion and a rose between the teeth help too. But the concert also cast doubt, if not on Piazzolla per se, then at least on the advisability of spending a whole evening with Kremer's genteel interpretations of a popular music that began this century, rude and dirty, in Argentina's gutters.

Piazzolla himself removed some of the tango's heat by combining its sexual yearning with French refinement. Kremer's performances and arrangements cool the tango further. In his hands it becomes the perfect Post-Modern art form, all passion put in quotation marks, abandon reduced to neat string glissandos, beautifully judged but as predictable as lampposts.

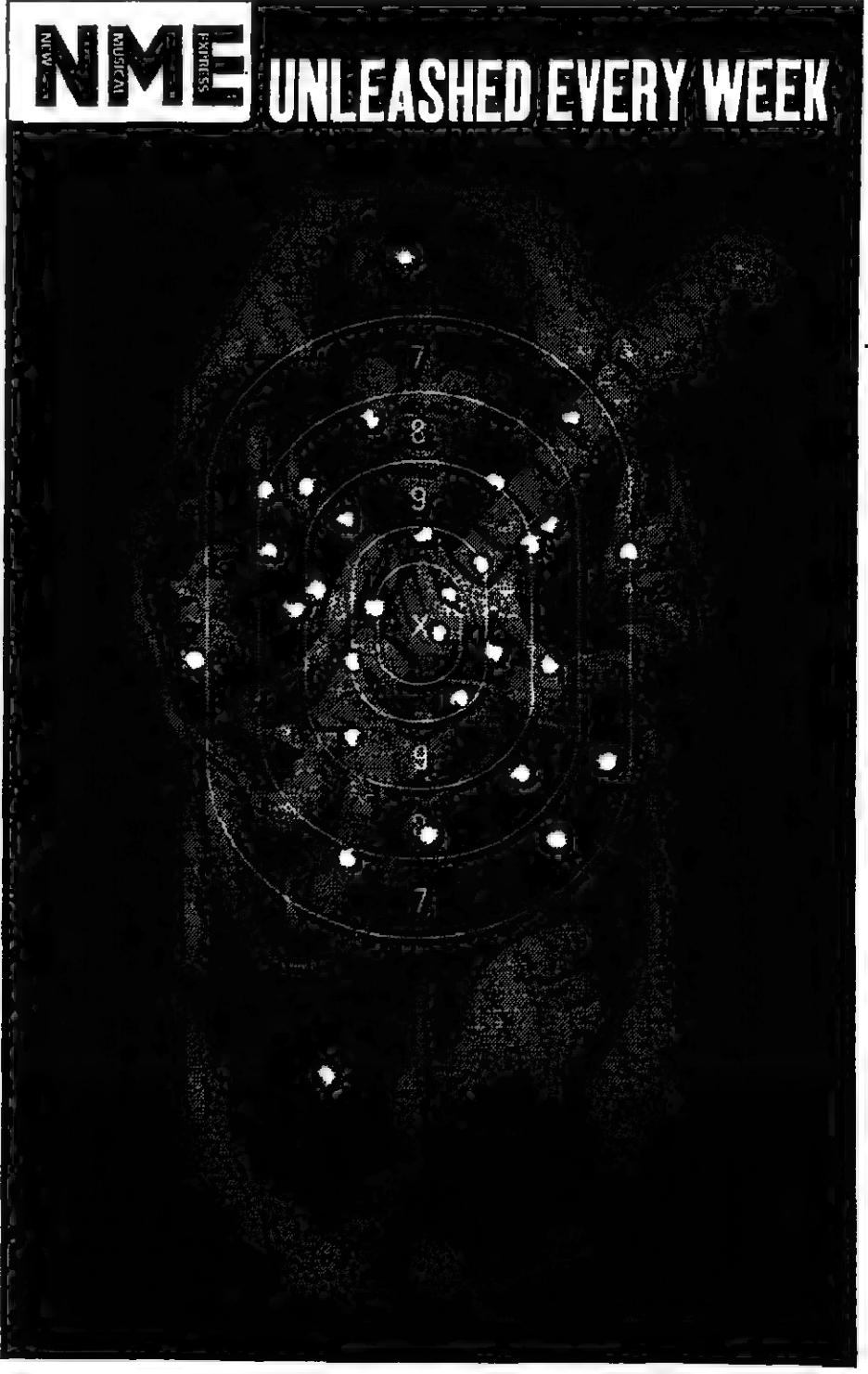
Kremer's solo violin could do little, but his friends varied the tango's hesitating cadences with trills, scratches and little slaps to the woodwork. By the time of *Five Sensations*, however, even the most Post-Modern of tango fiends may have felt fatigue. Admirable musicianship, throughout; but for those not hooked on the Piazzolla drug, a mildly depressing evening.

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IULIA MIGENES
Theatre

POP OPINION

XTC's time has come

Meanwhile, back in Swindon ...

Tied into a punitive contract with Virgin, XTC went on strike for six years. They downed tools — in their case, pastoral psychedelia, punchy, jungle-green pop and a pagan tilt at English mores — in 1993, and haven't released a note since. Their leader, the lugubrious Andy Partridge, retreated to his terraced house in Swindon, battled through an acrimonious divorce, built a studio in the shed at the end of his garden and started working on an album that he thought would never see the light of day.

"The more cack got thrown at us — the more the blinding scumstorm of negativity came our way — the more I wrote. The more acid gets poured on my motor, the more volts my battery has," Partridge says. He's balanced on the edge of his piano stool in his extraordinary parlour — the room is crammed with toy forts, woodblock etchings, dried herbs and naive pictures of huge fat farmyard pigs. It looks exactly as you'd expect the lead singer of XTC's home to look. He is, after all, one of the great British pop eccentrics.

"Some people would chew off their limbs to have these songs," he continues, correctly. "But I'm left with this longing for betterment. I need to murder those who influenced me. There are some big ghosts I still can't get rid of." He takes a sip of his almond tea. "Ray Davies just will not get out of my house. I have to kill Ray. I have to bludgeon Brian Wilson to death. If not kill, I certainly have to squeeze Burt Bacharach by the nuts."

"McCartney, I want to reduce to soya mince and Lennon — well, unfortunately, someone's already done the job for me with Lennon."

"Apparently," he says, twinkling over his specs, "there's a fellow on the Internet who claims I killed Lennon."

Having inspired a whole generation of Britpop artists — Blur, in particular, were up to

Andy Partridge has called off

XTC's six-year strike, Caitlin

Moran reports

their neck in debt to XTC during their Parklife days — Partridge and Co were finally released from their Virgin contract in 1995, and *Apple Venus Volume 1*, their first album in seven years, is out this week. And it's a stormer: XTC are still at least five years ahead of the pack.

The first track is as awesome as you'd imagine a song called *River of Orchids* should be: a world-sized bank of synopetized pizzicato violins, offset by Partridge's yelps and moans. *Easter Theatre* continues his obsession with birth and decay, and comes across like Vaughan Williams scoring the creation of a new world; while *Greenman* sounds like the last scene in a film set on another planet, where the jungle-creatures prepare a victory feast after the enemy has been blown to pieces with space lasers.



Andy Partridge: "I have to murder my influences"

"Oh no! You accuse me of writing the Ewok National Anthem!" Partridge yelps, in obvious distress. "Please, no! I've had a lot of people accuse that track of being very Arabic; but it's very pagan, very English. There's a slight dromedary whiff about the percussion, admittedly; but it goes no further east than Norwich. And no Ewoks were involved."

Asked what kept him going through his self-enforced six-year lay off, Partridge comes back to his childhood heroes once again.

"I just want to outdo all these people who caused me to become trapped in this weird ideas world where all my ideas as want to come out in music. It was never this way when I was a child. I didn't know whether I wanted to be an architect or a kite-maker or a bullet-biter or a painter. I just felt like an ideas person. But now I feel like I'm on these hot rails to Hades, where the orifice I've grown is a songwriting orifice that won't heal over."

Partridge was ten when the Beatles came along; and, as with every other member of his generation, his DNA was instantly altered. "I was there in my duffel coat and my shorts, thinking, 'Shall I scream? Girls scream. Some of the boys are screaming. Oh God. I don't know whether boys are supposed to scream at other boys or not.' He settled for 'grinding my knees together earnestly'. He cultivated a Brian Wilson pudding-bowl haircut which, to preserve its geometry, he would cup in his hands as he slept."

"I just think everything to do with music is magic," he beams, twirling round and round on his piano stool. "And that was the awful thing about the whole Elvis strike. It wasn't so much the money. But it was the awful silence that got to me — that they'd stopped me from casting my spells on people. As long as I can be Merlin, I'm happy."

● *Apple Venus Volume 1* is out now on Cooking Vinyl



Straight outta Cwmaman: After 11 months on the road, Stereophonics are glad to get home to mid-Glamorgan — "It's cheaper than therapy"

Pride of our valley

Stereophonics are the great Welsh hope of Brit rock.

But, Paul Sexton asks, can they win over America?

Last week's Grammy Awards were a merciless indictment of the enfeebled powers of British popular music as seen through American eyes. On a night at which the Brits were in the sort of form we showed at the Boston Tea Party, only a few of our senior rock citizens such as Eric Clapton and Page & Plant rescued us from total whitewash, and it was up to young whippersnappers like Elvis Costello to represent our youth policy.

Twisting the knife still deeper, the current issue of *Billboard* magazine trumpets the countrywide revival of that old devil called rock as a viable force on the American scene. The story celebrates the big numbers now being returned on the *Billboard* 200 album chart by such bright young guitar-bearers as Coo Coo Dolls, Creed, Limp Bizkit and Everclear, as well as genre staples like Metallica, Hole and Korn.

Nary a Brit among them, and the tale on American rock radio is almost as grim. For even a whiff of respectability on *Billboard*'s Modern Rock Tracks airplay chart, we have to grasp at the short-tails of such acts as Garbage and Placebo, who are not so much Brits as, well, Brit-ish. The only glimmer of hope seems to come in the superior grooves of Fatboy Slim and the techno-rock stylings of V2 label newcomers Tin Star, now gracing playlists with their song *Head*.

But among those British outfits that know one end of an axe from another, the one that

seems ideally suited to a transatlantic crossing must be Stereophonics. Also signed to V2, the trio from Cwmaman in South Wales have risen through the domestic ranks with inexorable purpose in the past two years, bringing a raucous individualism to a guitar-bass-drums configuration that many thought was going down for the third time.

This week, the band trounced their latest Top Five hit, *Just Looking*, outselling Cher in the process and neatly teasing up next week's release of an assured second album, *Performance and Cocktails*, that looks set for an unlikely head-to-head with bobbysoxin Britney Spears for British chart supremacy.

The album consolidates the premier division place they audaciously snatched with its predecessor, 1997's *Word Gets Around*, which has now clocked an aggregate of almost a year among our bestsellers. After a 1998 Best British Newcomer gong at the Brits and a mighty performance in front of 10,000 fans at Cardiff Castle last summer, Stereophonics last week booked an even grander day out, at Swansea's Morfa Stadium in July, and promptly sold 20,000 tickets in four days.

"The Cardiff show was the first time we'd seen 10,000 people there to see us," says the lead singer, Kelly Jones. "Before that, you'd do festivals

and you'd just assume they were not there for you. After that, you get a lot more confidence that their particular combination of perspiration and inspiration will win them a foothold on the daunting peaks of the American range."

"We toured for five weeks in

'In Italy I had to draw a map to show where Wales was. And Cardiff is full of Italians'

America last time, and it was hard work. Some of the drives were about 24 hours and you can't get off the bus," says Jones. "You go over there, and you see the Prodigy, and Oasis a little bit, but you listen to the radio, and it's like Smashing Pumpkins, Foo Fighters, Green Day, the same songs all the time."

"But we had some good shows. We played the Viper Room in LA, and San Francisco and Boston were really good. The new record comes out there in September, so the record company has got time

to get a decent plan together. We'll put in the effort if it will."

From a Welsh village to the American heartland would be another giant leap for Stereophonics, but there have been many of those since the trio became playground friends. Jones and Stuart Cable, the drummer, played together in bands even as pre-teens, adding bassist Richard Jones (no relation) and serving the statutory sentence grinding out covers in working men's clubs.

"I was 12, Stuart was 15 or 16, there were five of us in the band and none of us wanted to sing," says the personable Kelly. "Because my old man was in a band, it was assumed that I would have to be the singer. Up until 15, you're afraid to sing properly because you think someone's listening. Then you realise they are listening, so you sing properly."

"Stuart went into a glam band, I went into REO Speedwagon or something. Richard came in, he'd never played in a band before. We started doing covers of Neil Young and Bob Dylan, started listening to some decent music and then we started writing."

Stereophonics signed to V2 in the summer of 1996, and while it was soon clear that they would form part of the new Welsh spearhead, inevitably being coupled in "trend" stories with the Manics and Catatonia, they never lorded it over their local rivals. Unfash-

ionable it may be, but their home is still in those showbiz-free, green pastures of Glamorgan.

"I've been pretty much everywhere now," says Jones, "and the cities are great, but when you're brought up in the country, in a small village, you get the best of both worlds. We're the type of band that tours 11 months of the year, and you appreciate it so much more when you're away. It's cheaper than therapy. I moved a mile down the road, and I've got to move back, it's that ridiculous."

Nor has Jones's head been turned by a more than attractive offer he received recently from Baz Luhrmann, director of such lauded films as *Romeo + Juliet*. "Apparently he'd seen me on a video in America and asked his casting director to try and track me down to do an audition for a leading part. But I don't think I could act. I don't think it's appropriate at the moment. Great offer, but I'd rather write a screenplay."

In any case, the road is calling again, and on their endless travels Stereophonics will take the opportunity to advertise the red dragon. "A taxi driver picked us up in Germany the other day. He said, 'Where are you from?' and we said Wales. He said, 'Ah, Richard Burton, the Valleys, and we were like, 'Bloody hell! But in Italy, I had to draw a map for a girl to show her where Wales was. And Cardiff is full of Italians.'"

● *Performance and Cocktails* is released by V2 on Monday. Stereophonics tour Britain from April 15-May 2, and play Morfa Stadium, Swansea, on July 31

HMV recommends roots

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POP INTERVIEW
Stereophonics take

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 5 1999

NEW POP ALBUMS

Kula Shaker revitalised

NEW ALBUMS: David Sinclair on Kula Shaker's second album; plus, right, Nigel Williamson sees them in action

Karmic wheel of cool

KULA SHAKER
Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts
(Columbia SHAKER2CD
£15.99)

HAVING emerged from the shaky aftermath of their million-selling debut album, *K*, with a renewed sense of purpose, Kula Shaker return to the fray with *Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts*, an album which should surely lift them above the "is it real or is it retro?" debate. Even those who derided the band's use of Indian instruments and Sanskrit lyrics may be surprised at how well those influences have been incorporated on tracks such as *Nannini Nanda-nandana* and *Radhe Radhe*, the latter sung by guest vocalist Gouri Choudhury against a joyful combination of Krishna-like chanting and mambo horns.

On the minus side, Crispian Mills does not exactly help the band's cause with lyrics that are once again freighted with all sorts of cosmic mumbo-jumbo. "You're a wizard in a blizzard," he yelps meaninglessly in *Mystical Machine Gun*, while in *Great Hosannah* he raves about prophets rising to greet "a new world".

But this is still an impressive effort, and tracks such as *SOS*, *108 Battles* and *Sound of Drums* bristle with a self-confident energy that renders them impervious to complaints from those who think they have heard it all before.

miliar ingredients are always there: the gruff voice, the gorgeous horn parts, the lyrics as evocative as mottled sunlight on an autumn day. But in keeping with its bullish title, *Back On Top* offers something more, making it Morrison's most engaging album since *Days Like These* in 1993.

It begins with *Goin' Down*, a sublime, casual, 12-bar blues that sets a rougher tone than that of his recent work. Along with a buoyant piano break by Geraint Watkins, the number boasts the first full-blooded guitar solo (from Mick Green) on a Morrison album in recent memory.

From there the singer, aided throughout by the superb harmonies of Brian Kennedy, proceeds down a familiar route, but with a distinct spring in his step. "What do you do when you get to the top and there's nowhere to go?" he ponders on the title track, a question which seems redundant in the context of such a superlative, minor-key shuffle as this.

If Morrison seems to be treading water on one or two of the slower numbers, the level of commitment in the performances never falters. And when he strikes out on the melancholy narrative of *High Summer* and the swinging, Sam Cooke-influenced *Precious Time*, the mic flashes as brightly as it ever has.

formances never falters. And when he strikes out on the melancholy narrative of *High Summer* and the swinging, Sam Cooke-influenced *Precious Time*, the mic flashes as brightly as it ever has.

style, by various bespoke pop songwriters, there is a return to the formulaic R'n'B melodies and supine sentiments of a previous generation. "I don't know how to live without your love," she simmers on *Born to Make You Happy*, while much of the undoubted melodrama of the title track depends on the repeated injunction to "Hit me", diplomatically concealed by the three little dots in the title.

Still, by hanging on for a second week at the top of the singles chart, Spears has brought a welcome sense of perspective to Blur's perfectly pleasant new record, which could only manage a berth at No 2.

BRITNEY SPEARS

Baby One More Time
(Jive 052172 £15.99)

IT IS easy to snigger at all that "girl power" rhetoric which the Spice Girls brought to pop, but at least with groups such as them and All Saints you feel as if the singers are calling the shots in their songs.

With American teen phenomenon Britney Spears, whose debut album has been written for her, Tin Pan Alley-

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ARTS

TOMORROW
Top gigs listed in Metro



The comeback kids: Kula Shaker have shrugged off accusations of cultural opportunism and retro obsessions on *Peasants, Pigs and Astronauts*

Mystical musical mash

Kula Shaker took over the tiny basement that is the 100 Club in Oxford Street for the first of three club dates in advance of their full British tour. Three years ago the band's debut album, *K*, unveiled a heady, patchouli-laden mix of 1960s psychedelic pop that sounded as if the Beatles were still hanging out with the Maharishi and Syd Barrett had never left Pink Floyd. It appealed to old hippies and young ravers alike, entered the album chart at No 1 and won a Brit award.

The band's leader, Crispian Mills, immediately became a media darling, fêted not least because of his theatrical connections as the son of Hayley Mills and grandson of Sir John Mills.

Yet the backlash was swift. Mills did himself no favours with some ill-advised comments ("Hitler knew a lot more than he made out") and suddenly the band were receiving the cold shoulder, widely denounced as phoney purveyors of pseudo-mystical mumbo-jumbo. So their second album, *Peasants, Pigs & Astronauts* (see review, left) finds them at a crunch point in their short career.

On this showing they remain stuck steadfastly in some rose-tinted vision of the 1960s hippie idyll. To their fans they are cosmic visionaries, to their detractors merely sad, middle-class copycats and this tour is not going to change minds either way. The material from the new album, such as *SOS* and *Mystical Machine Gun*, was washed in the same psychedelic primary colours as the hit singles from the first album, *Hey Dude* and *Govinda*.

What saves the band from mere pastiche is Mills, who was a charismatic showman, despite some incomprehensible ranting about the significance of it being a full moon.

Apparently he likes to consult his astrological chart before making a move. On this night, at least, the stars must have been twinkling benignly.

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Apparently he likes to consult his astrological chart before making a move. On this night, at least, the stars must have been twinkling benignly.

TOP TEN ALBUMS

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | (1) <i>Talk on Corners</i> | Corn (Atlantic) |
| 2 | (2) <i>The Illusionist</i> | Lauren Hill (Columbia) |
| 3 | (3) <i>Two Beams Expecting You</i> | Robbie Williams (Chrysalis) |
| 4 | (4) <i>This Is My Truth Tell Me Yours</i> | Manic Street Preachers (Epic) |
| 5 | (5) <i>You've Come a Long Way, Baby</i> | Fatboy Slim (Sire) |
| 6 | (6) <i>Forgiveness, Not Forgetfulness</i> | Corn (Atlantic) |
| 7 | (7) <i>Step One</i> | Stapa One |
| 8 | (8) <i>Life Thru a Lens</i> | Robbie Williams (Chrysalis) |
| 9 | (9) <i>No Exit</i> | Blonde (RCA/Beyond) |
| 10 | (10) <i>Brain Therapy</i> | Cardigans (Stockholm) |

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LENNY WHITE

(Hip Hop HBD 8019)

IF drummer Lenny White's mission is to prove that funk can embrace a rich variety of rhythms, sounds and textures as its snooty cousin jazz, he succeeds triumphantly on this immediately appealing yet subtly crafted album. The opening track, *Raiders in the Temple of Boom*, sounds like an escape from a late Miles Davis album, while the treacly bass-clarinets of Bennie Maupin recalls *Bitches Brew*. Led Zeppelin's *Kashmir* is intriguingly filtered through a Sly Stone-like arrangement: rap, fusion, and even the odd scrap of straight-ahead jazz are also thrown into the mix, plus samples of everything from Bulgarian choirs to African traditional music.

With a stellar band — Patrice Rushen, Foley McCreary, Victor Bailey and Danny

Flying a funky flag

JAZZ ALBUMS

Walsh are all involved — and White's meticulous production, this is a classy album that should appeal even to the hit-erto funk-allergic.

TONY REMY'S BLUE VIBE

Jammin' at the 12 Bar Club
(Alltone ALTR002)

EVER since the mid-1980s, when guitarist Tony Remy was playing with Desperately Seeking Fusion, those impressed by the fluidity and vis-

ceral impact of his live sound have found it difficult, on the evidence of his records, to convince the sceptical that he is among Britain's most exciting soloists on any instrument. The release of these seven live bluesy jams should make their task a great deal easier.

Of the album's 70-plus minutes, more than an hour is devoted to Remy's inexhaustibly inventive guitar, from blisteringly eloquent 12-bar blues to fierce, punchy funk, bringing to mind not only rock icons such as Hendrix but also later, jazzier players such as Mike Stern and John Scofield. With support from drummer Pete Levinson and a selection of bassists, plus the occasional sweetly agile solo from saxophonist Jean Toussaint, this is, in Remy's words, his chance to "get up and wail, and worry about it next time round".

CHRIS PARKER

Last of the soul brokers

Malaco Records, from Jackson, Mississippi, is one of the last of the independent record companies that have helped to shape America's musical tastes. It has kept its independence not by chasing pop glory — only three of its records have ever made the American Top Ten — but by concentrating on the market it knows best: contemporary Southern rhythm and blues, soul and gospel.

The six-CD box set *The Last Soul Company* (Malaco MCD030) celebrates the work of the company which "makes black music for black people". The label enjoyed its first big success in 1970 with an infectious dance record called *Groove Me*, by New Orleans singer King Floyd. That was followed by another dance smash, Jean Knight's *Mr Big Stuff*. Then, as the company grew, came country-influenced soul singers such as Dorothy Moore, established soul stars such as ZZ Hill and Ben-

JOHN CLARKE

HMV ontopform



VAN MORRISON BACK ON TOP

Two years after his last studio album *The Healing Game*, Van Morrison delivers his brand new album *Back On Top*. Recorded at The Wool Hall in Bath with a band including Van stalwarts Brian Kennedy, Rachna Trench, Pee Wee Ellis and Katie Kissoon, together with Mick Green (guitar), Geraint Watkins (Hammond), Ian Jennings (double bass) and Bobby Irwin (drums). With its rootsier, more bluesy feel, *Back On Top* is a real return to form.

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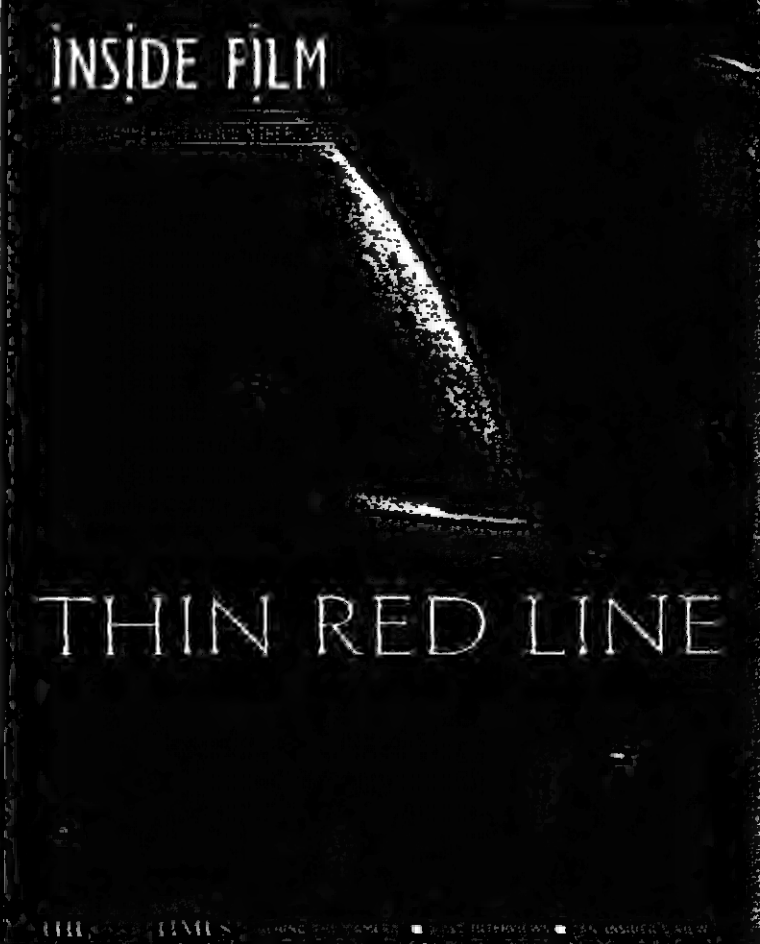
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THE TIMES

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FREE IN THE TIMES TODAY

CHANGING TIMES

FT's German challenge

Germany's press faces a shake-up with the launch of a new business daily. Report by Sigrid Auferbeck

With the *Financial Times* about to enter the German market, business publications there are bracing for a shake-up. The *FT* this week announced plans to launch a German-language business and financial daily in partnership with Gruner+Jahr, the newspaper and magazine wing of Bertelsmann.

The £60-million joint-venture company is working under the banner "Facts & Figures GmbH" until a title for the paper is agreed. Andrew Gowers, deputy editor of the *FT* in London, is editorial director of the new company, with Michael Rzesutsek of G+J in charge of marketing and management.

The "German *FT*" — the launch is expected late this year — will print on the characteristic salmon-coloured paper and a comprehensive online version will be available. An editorial team of about 100 — mostly based in Hamburg — will produce the paper, with access to articles from the *FT*'s global network of correspondents. The sales target is 150,000, the break-even schedule is three years.

It is an ambitious project: the first new daily to enter the German market for 20 years will challenge two heavyweights: *Handelsblatt* and the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. The former is Germany's monopolist business daily with sales of 160,000; the Frankfurt paper is a national daily boasting authoritative business and finance sections which sell 400,000 copies.

Both papers are gearing up for the imminent circulation battle. *Frankfurter* — based in euroland's financial centre — launched an extra finance section in January and



Fistful of deutchmarks: the *Financial Times* hopes to carve a niche for itself in a German market that boasts £23 billion in advertising revenue

introduced an *FT*-style Lex column. Its financial expertise received a boost when staff from its now defunct stablemate, *Blick durch die Wirtschaft*, were incorporated into *Frankfurter* last year.

Handelsblatt is now recruiting to bolster its editorial team of 175, fearing that the new *FT* may poach its staff. The paper has improved its layout and introduced features and analysis pages as well as devoting more space to personal finance. Gowers believes that there is enough room in the rapidly growing business media market for all three publications: "This market is growing faster than the papers."

The *FT* strategy is to find a niche by combining "the authority of traditional German newspapers with the investigative and story-breaking culture of German business magazines". The German dailies

suffer from the perception that they are dull and act as obedient vehicles for the reporting of corporate success, leaving critique and scoops to the magazines. Ironically, as the German corporate world has become increasingly multinational, business journalists covering this changing landscape have remained insular: all titles are in German hands, mostly addressing a German readership.

Business and financial journalism has boomed in the past few years. Previously, Germans had showed little interest in personal finance — only this decade did they start to plunder their savings accounts and shift to more modern forms of investment. First to take advantage of this were the magazines. New titles such as *Börse Online* and *Impulse* were launched, while existing titles such as *Capital*, *Wirtschaftswoche* and *Manager Magazin* flourished.

The newspaper market was different: there were no new players but all the dailies — notably *Die Welt* and *Süddeutsche Zeitung* — upgraded their business coverage because it was this section that was pulling in the largest advertising revenue. In 1998, the national dailies increased their advertising revenue by 11.8 per cent, according to the association of German newspaper publishers. It is not surprising that Pearson, which owns the *FT*, is eyeing a share of this DM6.9 billion (£2.34 billion) in revenue.

The European edition of the *FT*, printed in Frankfurt since 1979, has seen its sales climb to 22,000 in Germany, but further gains seem unlikely as Germans remain reluctant to read English. In G+J, the *FT* group has found

an ambitious partner. It already owns the business magazines *Capital*, *Impulse* and *Börse Online*. G+J's interest in joining forces with the *FT* is no doubt heightened by the fact that it has no major daily in its stable — its revamp of *Berliner Zeitung* has yet to enjoy success.

Andrew Gowers will relish the challenge on his hands. After a successful year as acting editor of the *FT* while Richard Lambert was in America, he found little appeal in retreating from the front line.

But already some German analysts are pointing to a possible weak link. "Gowers will find it difficult to hire enough talented journalists," says Peter Turi, Editor of *Kress-Report*, a media gossip publication. Gowers is headhunting writers but he has yet to reveal any "big names" — writers who would serve to attract further quality personnel.

BT lines up a new image

THERE has been much posturing in adland over the past two weeks as to which agency has won what accounts in the great BT pitch bonanza. Newspaper business sections have bandied about fantastic spend figures with scant regard to the truth, common sense, competitor activity or basic mathematics.

However, with this week's award of the £5 million youth advertising account to Labour's favourite trendy advertising co-operative, St Luke's, BT's new line-up of agencies is complete.

Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO, Britain's largest agency, had the

most to lose, holding most of the account over the past three years. BT went into the pitch intending to spread a workload that had become onerous for any one agency to handle — least of all profitably. Abbott Mead retained the most significant chunk of the business, the £60 million domestic consumer account. This includes call stimulation, the task that over the past two decades has brought us Beattie and Bob Hoskins.

As we know, the "it's good to talk" ads are set to disappear after five years, as that task (getting people, particularly men, to use the phone more and for longer) appears to have been met.

Today, the first problem is how to reverse BT's long-term decline in market share in the face of competition from cable operators.

M & C Saatchi, Maurice Saatchi's agency, emerged as the primary beneficiary of the review process. It won the £10 million business-to-business communications account with a brief that involves promoting BT as more than a supplier of telephony, but as a business partner in the digital age. The win is a coup for M & C Saatchi. And it's vital to BT's management that this campaign succeeds. Business-to-business is about corporate confidence, shuffling off an old-fashioned image and, almost as important, cracking the insecurity of BT's management.

The rest of the line-up is completed by St Luke's, and Ammirati Puris Lintas, which has been taken on for special projects.

The first new Abbott Mead campaign is expected next month. BT has a good advertising track record. There is no reason to suggest that this will change given the quality of agency line-up.

NEWS this week of Adam Lury's retirement from advertising at the age of 42, has given many pause for thought.

Lury is one of the five co-founders of HHCL & Partners, the agency born in 1987 that went on to be the most controversial, preposterous, clever and hyped of the 1990s. As planning director, Lury was the brain behind such campaigns as the launch of First Direct bank, the turnaround of Britvic's Tango brand and the repositioning of the AA as the "fourth emergency service".

Lury's belief that the conventions by which advertising was created could be challenged to allow clients more access is now almost universal industry practice. His championing of strategic media buying, and his belief that advertising did not have to patronise the consumer, have also been greatly influential. He will be missed.

Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign.



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THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

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اكتشاف النهر



Sir Paul Condon managed to keep his job, to the unspoken relief of the Yard press office, despite the furor arising from the Stephen Lawrence report

Spinning a thin blue line?

As the Stephen Lawrence report finally slips down Fleet Street's news schedules, Scotland Yard press officers are breathing a sigh of relief. The Met has been badly bruised but Sir Paul Condon is still in charge. The damage could have been much worse.

Organising press relations for Britain's 54 police forces and national squads must often seem like occupying that proverbial spot between a rock and a hard place. "The journalists think we are holding back. The police think we are too close to reporters," sighed one senior press officer this week.

The role of police press officers has recently come under increasing scrutiny. Journalists complain that it is often hard to obtain information and that responses to queries are slow. Press officers argue that they are constrained by the nature of police work. But Scotland Yard has nonetheless increased its emphasis on press relations, now a 70-strong department with 30 press officers and an annual budget of £6 million. National-

Police press officers face pressures to provide both more information and less, says Stewart Tendler

ly, no force is without its media unit, and responsibility for them has gradually passed from senior police officers to media managers.

The units offer a daily diet of crime stories and traffic accidents for newspapers, radio stations and television. The greatest focus of media attention is the Yard, which handles about 25,000 calls each year to its 24-hour press bureau. Yet in many county forces, press officers are less responsive to media demands. They close at 5pm, and press officers are rarely contactable at night or at weekends.

Such reluctance to maintain the flow of information reflects a longstanding paranoia about the press among police — although Dick Fodorio, the head of the Met's press and publicity operation, argues that other organisations are equally cautious. He advocates a better rapport between the press and police officers but admits that even in the Met, only about a third of officers are comfortable with the media.

The idea of openness towards the media also sits uneasily with the view of many modern chief constables, versed in the latest management theories that dictate that forces should speak with one corporate voice to the press, as commercial companies do.

In recent years, forces including the Yard have tried to tighten their control on information — not always successfully, since most crime reporters operate by using personal contacts. The Yard has also been accused of using the drive against corruption to curtail such contacts — a charge it stoutly denies.

According to Chester Stern, the president of the Crime Reporters' Association, trying to gag officers will encourage rather than halt corruption.

under an embargo, so that the latter could write background articles in preparation for convictions. But defence lawyers claimed there was a risk of contempt of court, and almost all forces now refuse to brief journalists about a case until the jury has gone out.

Despite such increasing legal fetters, chief constables still agree that for better or worse, they must live with the press and improve relations — although there is now at least one alternative which is cheap and offers links to the public unfiltered by journalists.

US forces make wide use of the Internet, and British forces are showing increasing interest. The Yard's site now draws 40,000 people a month. And the largest single entry? The Lawrence report, of course.

News at Ten hangs on to its good name

WHY is ITN so determined to prevent Sky News using the title *News at Ten*? Answer: it wants to start a 24-hour news channel soon and could then resurrect its most famous brand.

The biggest applause at its wake on Wednesday came when Sir David Nicholas, former ITN editor, said: "I can't find it in my heart to cheer the end of *News at Ten*." Just as well the party was shunned (in favour of football) by the executives who wielded the knife.

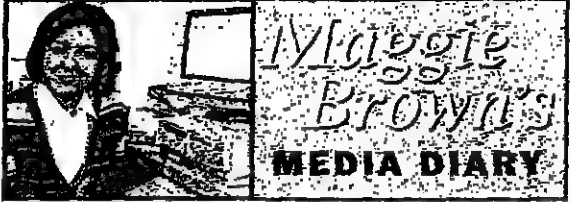
Meanwhile, ponder this: 6.9 million tuned in for *News at Ten's* Ugandan murders reports.

firmly he is out of the race for Director-General of the BBC by providing written guarantees to his board that he will not apply for the job.

■ HUGE sighs of relief among British comedy makers. ITV's desperate attempt to revive the genre, by asking top US experts Carsey Werner to make *Days Like These* for it in Britain, has produced another flop. The series has only been scheduled up to March 15. Paul Jackson, the BBC's head of entertainment, says: "It goes to prove that it's difficult producing domestic comedy in the UK at the moment."

to the kind of paper Preston ran. Working on *The Guardian* as I did in the 1980s was a dispiriting experience for anyone who wasn't male and Oxbridge too. Shyama Pereira, one of Preston's three, who had two stints trying to further herself before exiting in defeat in 1989, says: "As a black woman I was unskilled at playing the white, male Oxbridge game, and they were certainly not queuing up to give me the rules." For a liberal paper, it seemed odd.

■ LAST week I wrote that ITV's drama reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence murder performed poorly because it was broadcast a week too early. David Liddiment, ITV's director of programmes, says it was meant to coincide with the publication of the report but that came out later than expected. It was not a victim of a macho male scheduling game. But it illustrates how carefully crafted programmes can fail to make an impact, through simple scheduling mistakes.



Maggie Brown's MEDIA DIARY

■ THIS week *The Guardian* ran an odd piece from former editor Peter Preston about his difficulties in recruiting black and Asian journalists — he totalled only three — though his successor of the past four years, Alan Rusbridger, has done much better. But it all boils down



Unfunny: the sitcom, *Days Like This*, has flopped

Facing the Net threat

When I first knew Greg Hadfield he was a young reporter on *The Western Morning News*, fresh from Oxford, with obvious talent and a baby son who was a computer freak when he was just out of nappies. Fifteen years later, Hadfield and Tom, that baby son, run the world's most popular football website, Soccer-net, and Hadfield also owns Schools-Net, a virtual school on the Web.

Four years ago, when he was 11, Tom started a Saturday night soccer results website from his home in Brighton. Now it is owned by the *Daily Mail* and is one of the world's top 50 websites. He will be a millionaire before he leaves university. Success and fortune couldn't come to a nicer family and the extraordinary story of the Hadfields should be studied by every editor who worries about the "threat" from the Net.

That worry surfaced this week when a colleague on the sports desk, who had suddenly realised that football fans could get reports of matches on the Net within an hour of the final whistle, asked why any of them should bother to buy a Sunday or Monday newspaper.

By 7pm on Saturday nights Soccer-net is running *Mail on Sunday* match reports, and there are also reports on individual club websites. On Wednesday night about 100,000 Manchester United fans around the world got a 1,700-word running commentary on Soccer-net, as well as the results of the other European matches. Yesterday it was receiving 300 votes an hour on who would win the Champions League. Why bother going to a newspaper Internet site for sport?

With the Internet, says *Observer* columnist John Naughton, we have hitched a ride on a rocket and none of us has any clue where it is headed. None of the newspaper Internet gurus would quarrel with that assessment. What they do believe, sincerely, is that newspapers have got to be astute the rocket.

Hadfield, who worked on *Today*, *The Sunday Times*, *Daily Mail* and *Sunday Express* and loves newspapers, has been depressed by the Little Englander lack of enterprise shown by British newspaper groups. They have been so reluctant to embrace new media that they have missed an opportunity to become global players. They will soon be exposed to American conglomerates who will be

parking their tanks in Britain, he believes.

That British conservatism is shown in the vivid contrast between the Internet editions of British and American newspapers. Each British newspaper, moreover, has opted for a different strategy. The Internet edition of *The Times* reproduces the total newspaper, but is developing micro sites; *Guardian Unlimited* consists of micro sites with live news; *Electronic Telegraph* is a mix of the two.



Brian MacArthur

Each is successful, with 1.8 million registered users of *The Times*, more than a million regular users of the *Telegraph*, and 200,000 registrations within two months for *The Guardian*.

Americans, by contrast, are producing dedicated Net newspapers. *The Wall Street Journal* has 60 reporters worldwide working 24 hours a day for its constantly updated *Interactive Journal*. It can be set up to deliver a personal profile of news and quotes and has separate entrances for America, Asia and Europe (wsj.com). On *The New York Times* site, news is updated every ten minutes. It offers a 365-day archive, a free library of 50,000 book reviews and exclusive Web reports on books and technology (nytimes.com).

Any first-rate daily newspaper without its own first-rate newswire would eventually have to buy or build one. Peter Kann, the chairman of Dow Jones, which owns the *Journal*, gave warning this week. "Otherwise newspapers, which are so distinctive every morning, will, on the Internet, become the same wire copy by the end of the day. That's the case with many newspapers on the Web today, which are the *Daily Bugle* by morning and the *Associated Press* by night."

Hadfield would agree with the drift of Mr Kann's comments. New media in Britain, he says, is often led either by staff who know something about journalism, or by journalists who are ignorant of new media — and sometimes by technicians who know nothing about journalism at all. Defensive strategies intended to ring-fence the British market won't work because they won't make money.

Is Hadfield too pessimistic? John Naughton's iron law is that we always over-estimate the long-term impact of new technologies — and my own experience with *Today* in 1985-86 suggests that newspapers using new media can try to fly too high, too soon. British newspapers may be right to make haste slowly.

Internet editions are capturing young, promiscuous or overseas readers who don't or cannot buy newspapers and are establishing the attraction of a brand. By starting to publish Web links from important news stories, *The Times* becomes a search engine to the wealth of information on the Net. E-mail addresses at the end of columns have proved a remarkable success: after their recent columns on the euro in *The Times*, Mary Ann Sieghart and Anatole Kaletsky have been swamped with up to a hundred e-mails.

Few editors are complacent about the Net, but most also believe in Naughton's iron law. So, as the world explodes with information, they argue that newspapers must act as sieves, selecting the blend of information and entertainment that suits their brand. Newspapers and the Net can coexist. Yes, they might say, you can read *Mail on Sunday* match reports on Soccer-net on Saturday nights, but *Mail on Sunday* sales are still up 43,000 on a year ago.



On the ball: Soccer-net on Wednesday

• brian.macarthur@the-times.co.uk

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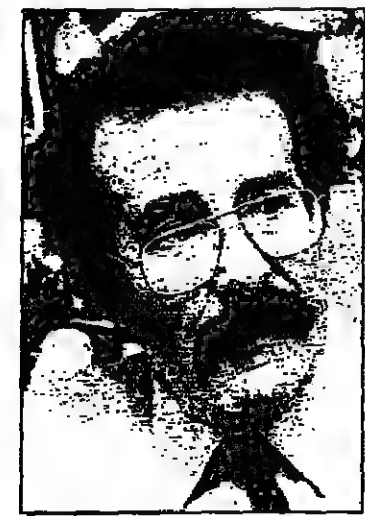
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Susan Greenfield



Robert Winston



Michio Kaku

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CHANGING TIMES

A crisp approach to cable

Raymond Snoddy talks to Tony Illsey, the salted snacks man who turned telecoms evangelist

These days, when you ring the headquarters of Telewest, one of the big three cable companies, an extraordinary thing happens. The call is answered quickly.

Cable companies such as Telewest have had a terrible reputation in the past for the service they have provided. "Just six months ago we were answering only 74 per cent of all calls received, and of those only 61 per cent were answered within 30 seconds," says Tony Illsey, who came from running Walkers Crisps, a company that has won most of the marketing prizes going, to be chief executive of Telewest. He was the first executive with top-notch marketing experience to take charge of a cable company. "Last month our total calls answered were well into 90 per cent, of which 82 per cent were answered within 30 seconds," he says.

The transformation was achieved by focusing senior managers on the issue at a meeting every Tuesday when they knew the call numbers would be reviewed. "The whole team know their first priority is to make sure that they are not going to be embarrassed during that meeting," says Illsey, who often rings the

call centres pretending to be a member of the public. Apart from "crunching together" Telewest with General Cable and Birmingham Cable last year, Illsey says his priority has been to make basic things work.

There has been another change to the company during the chief executive's reign. When Illsey took over, his mother spent £200 on Telewest shares at 130p, the first shares she had ever bought. They now stand at 270p.

the media interview

The difference is not entirely due to Mrs Illsey's son. The surge in the share of the telecommunications sector has pulled shares of cable companies up with them. Illsey has also taken over at a time when cable is being taken more seriously and the balance of power between the industry and its satellite rival BSkyB has been shifting its way.

Five years ago, satellite dishes outnumbered cable connections by three to one. There were 2.5 million dishes against 800,000 cable TV subscriptions. By the end of last year, cable had added two million homes while satellite had added only one million.

Illsey, who can tell where anyone was brought up by the brand of crisps they eat, has high hopes



Cable boss Tony Illsey often rings Telewest call centres pretending to be a member of the public

that the gap will be further eroded by the company's "millennium package". For £12.99 a month subscribers get a telephone line and 14 television channels, including the five terrestrial ones, as well as Sky One, Eurosport, the Cartoon Network and Sky News.

The package is already successful in such areas as Newcastle, and in the next few months it will be introduced to the General Cable franchises in London and Slough, and at Birmingham Cable. "It is the single biggest driver of the momentum now in the company," says Illsey, who became a management trainee with Colgate after doing a business degree.

He was five years in Japan for Pepsi, which he describes as life-changing. "I learnt the importance of having a vision for a business and communicating the hell out of it so that everyone knows exactly what it is about and what they have to do," he says.

Illsey wants to see maximum flexibility in services offered to customers. Soon after arriving he expressed surprise at the small attempt to segment the market and to understand customers' needs. "There are five types of Walkers Crisps," he says, "and 18 flavours. There are four bag sizes for different ages, sexes and occasions. And these items cost 25p or 50p."

Eighteen flavours may be too many for cable, but last year, even excluding the newly acquired companies, Telewest added 170,000 homes. It now has 1.4 million subscribers despite BT's "win back" campaign. "What they don't reveal is that they are still losing to Telewest more telephone customers than they claim to be winning back," says Illsey.

The chief executive plans to introduce digital cable packages at the end of this year. The launch of SkyDigital and QNdigital, the

terrestrial service, have created, he believes, such awareness about pay television that cable will be able to take maximum advantage when it launches services such as fast Internet access.

Cable modems will, Illsey says, make the Internet available on impulse, just like television. Above all, cable will be able to offer a range of services now becoming commercially feasible, such as video-on-demand — the ability to choose from a library of hundreds of feature films.

In America last week Illsey saw another possible cable offering, an electronic book that can store up to ten books at a time from an Internet site. "Where a novel might take 15 minutes to download over a phone line, it will take 15 seconds with a cable modem," says Illsey. But that is a little way off yet. Before that is the battle to establish Telewest as the benchmark of customer service.

Wanted: heavy mettle PR

A RESOURCEFUL operator is being sought for one of the country's toughest PR assignments. PR Week reports that, after a run of poor publicity, the Diana Memorial Fund is hunting for its first in-house PR and communications head. Since it was established in September 1997, just after the Princess's death, the fund has been involved in rows over the high fees paid to its lawyers, the use of Diana's name on a low-fat spread and lottery scratch-card and, most recently, the dismissal of Paul Morrell, the Princess's former butler. A PR practitioner describes the job as "a bit of a poisoned chalice".

THE Advertising Association has warned the Government against allowing the Food Standards Agency to censor advertising, says Campaign. The AA is worried that the agency will be hijacked by health-eating pressure groups bent on warning consumers of certain products. Unconvinced by assurances from Jeff Rooker, the minister responsible for food safety, the association is drawing up battle plans. "Commercial advertising is not a tool for social policy or social engineering," says Sara Price, the AA's head of public affairs.

THE BBC's first dedicated promotion for *EastEnders* will begin today, Marketing reports, with slots on all television and radio channels. The campaign has been masterminded by Maureen Duffy, who joined the BBC last year from J. Walter Thompson. It is part of an attempt to stem the drift of peak-time viewers from BBC1 to ITV, which could accelerate next week when *News at Ten* disappears.

ESTHER RANTZEN, keen to remain untarnished by the row over fake talk-show guests, has written to Broadcast pointing out that her BBC2 programme has had no allegations made against it. She writes about "the positive good" achieved by tackling important subjects

through first-hand experiences. "We should recognise the strength and value of talk shows when they are well made," she says.

THE LAUNCH PAD: Associated Newspapers delays launch of free London daily *Metro* to March 15 and cuts print run from 350,000 to 100,000; EMAP's new weekly *Heat* hits 100,000 sales target (Marketing); Mirror Group abandons plan to relaunch *Sporting Life* (Campaign); *Melodie*, dedicated to women's writing, to launch on Monday; EMAP Eilan plans new magazine edited by Sharon Ring, former editor of *OK!* (Press Gazette). Indefinite delay to launch of *Crime Weekly* by Cabal (Media Week).

GETTING THE BUSINESS: J. Walter Thompson wins £15 million account for cable TV and telecoms firm NTL; Publicis to handle £3 million campaign for McVitie's, introducing Jaffa Cakes in a resealable tube; Lever Bros signs £1 million deal to sponsor ITV's *Stars in Their Eyes*, promoting Radion washing powder (Marketing); Sega returns to former agency WCRS to launch new Dreamcast computer-games console; Mustoe Merriman Herring Levy wins £3 million account for Norwich Union investment fund; Fuji plans to appoint Wunderman Cato Johnson to £3 million account (Campaign).

CHANGING FACES: Andy Zornfrillo, broadcast director at Leo Burnett, to be TV buying director for MindShare; Gerry Roads quits as European marketing director for Del Monte (Marketing Week); Documentary-maker Paul Watson leaves Granada for United Productions (Broadcast); Bates Dorlands account executive Adam Leigh promoted to deputy managing director (Campaign); Giles Peerman from Unilever to be Classic FM's first dedicated marketing manager (Media Week).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

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THE TIMES



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01 Mika Hakkinen	07 Eddie Irvine	12 Ralf Schumacher	18 Jarno Trulli
02 Michael Schumacher	08 Olivier Panis	13 H.H. Frantzen	19 Rubens Barrichello
03 Damon Hill	09 Giancarlo Fisichella	14 Alexander Wurz	20 Pedro Diniz
04 David Coulthard	10 Jean Alesi	15 Mika Salo	21 Pedro de la Rosa
05 Alessandro Zanardi	11 Johnny Herbert	16 Ricardo Zonta	22 Luca Badoer
06 Jacques Villeneuve		17 Marc Gené	*Replaces Norberto Fontana

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C		GROUP D	
23 McLaren	25 Williams	29 Arrows	31 Stewart
24 Ferrari	26 Jordan	30 BAR	32 Prost
	28 Sauber		33 Minardi

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TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. To qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix, postal entries must be received by first post on Wednesday, April 7, 1999.

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THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy Formula One. (For readers resident outside the UK and Republic of Ireland the fee is £15.) Post it to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Your entry must be received by Wednesday, April 7, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian GP.

GROUP A AND GROUP B DRIVERS			Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms Index of names PLEASE Surname	Initials	Age
1st	2nd	3rd			
GROUP C AND GROUP D CONSTRUCTORS					
Team Name (maximum of 16 characters)					
I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.					
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NUMBER, VALUE, PERCENTAGE INVESTED

House of Lords

Law Report March 5 1999

Court of Appeal

Demonstration not trespassory assembly

Director of Public Prosecutions v Jones and Another

Before Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord Chancellor, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord Hutton

[Speeches March 4]

A peaceful, non-obstructive assembly of 21 persons on the verge of the A34 at Stonehenge, found by the trial court to have been a reasonable use of the highway, had not been a trespassory assembly within the meaning of section 70 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

The House of Lords (Lord Slynn and Lord Hope dissenting) allowed an appeal by Margaret Jones and Richard Lloyd from the Queen's Bench Divisional Court. Lord Justice Chadwick and Mr Justice Collins (The Times January 27, 1997; [1998] QB 563), which had allowed an appeal by the Director of Public Prosecutions by case stated from the Divisional Court (Judge Webster, QC and Justices).

The crown court had allowed the defendants' appeal against their conviction by Salisbury Justices of trespassory assembly contrary to section 70(1) of the 1994 Act. Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC, Mr Keir Starmer and Mr Anthony Hudson for the defendants; Mr Victor Temple, QC and Mr Michael Butt for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that an order had been made by the district court under section 14A(2) of the 1994 Act prohibiting trespassory assemblies in the Stonehenge area during the period in question.

On the evening of June 1, 1995 a police inspector had counted 21 people

on the roadside verge adjacent to the perimeter fence of the monument. Some had borne banners with legends such as "Free Stonehenge". He had told them that they constituted a trespassory assembly and asked them to move off. Some, including the defendants, had remained and been arrested.

The crown court had held that none of the group had been "destructive, violent, disorderly, threatening a breach of the peace or, on the evidence, doing anything other than reasonably using the highway".

It had been assumed for the purposes of the appeal to the Divisional Court that the group had not created an obstruction and not constituted a public nuisance.

Section 14A(2) of the 1994 Act prohibited, as a trespassory assembly, an assembly that took place "so as to exceed... the limits of the public's rights of access".

Section 14A(2) defined a "limited" right of access as meaning that the public's use of it was "restricted to use for a particular purpose (as in the case of a highway or road)".

The central issue thus turned on the interpretation of (a) what were the "limits" of the public's right of access to the public highway at common law; and (b) what was the "particular purpose" for which the public had a right to use the highway.

In broad terms the basis of the Divisional Court's decision was the proposition that the public's right of access to the highway was limited to the right to pass and repass and to do anything incidental or ancillary to that right. Trenchard's assembly was not so incidental.

That was founded on authorities including *Harrison v Duke of Rutland* (1893) 1 QB 142 and *Hickman v Maisey* (1900) 1 QB 753.

The question was whether the law today should recognise that the public highway was a public place on which all manner of reasonable activities might go on.

In his Lordship's opinion it should. Provided those activities were reasonable, did not involve the commission of a public or private nuisance and did not amount to an obstruction of the highway unreasonably impeding the primary right of the general public to pass and repass, they should not constitute a trespass. Subject to those qualifications, there would be a right of peaceful assembly on the highway.

To limit lawful use of the highway to that which was literally "incidental or ancillary" to the right of passage would be to place an unreasonable and unwarranted restriction on commonplace day-to-day activities.

The public highway was a public place that the public might enjoy for any reasonable purpose. It was for the magistrates in every case to decide as a matter of fact and degree whether the user had been reasonable and not inconsistent with the right to pass and repass.

LORD SLYNN, dissenting, said that on existing authority the law was clear: the right of the public on the highway was restricted to passage and reasonable incidental use associated with passage.

The defendants' argument in effect involved giving the public the right to wander over or stay on land for such a period and in such numbers as they chose so long as they were reasonable, not obstructive and not committing a nuisance.

That went far beyond anything that could be described as incidental or ancillary to the use of a highway

as such for the purposes of passage, nor did such an extensive use constitute a reasonable, normal or usual use of the highway as a highway.

LORD HOPE, dissenting, said that the consequences of accepting that anyone who was behaving peacefully and non-obstructively and doing no harm to anyone was exercising the public's right of access to the highway, as a matter of right and not by mere tolerance, would have implications far beyond the facts of the present case.

It would affect the position of every private owner of land throughout the country over which there was a public right of way, whether a made-up road or a footpath or a bridleway.

It seemed to his Lordship to be contrary to elementary concepts of justice that the rights of landowners as against the public in relation to access to their land should be diminished by a decision of the House of Lords when nobody who was in a position to defend their interest had yet been heard.

His Lordship was not persuaded that the balance that was struck in private law between the rights of the public and those of landowners was in need of adjustment to enable members of the public to exercise their freedom of assembly.

In practice, they were allowed to assemble in public places as they wished without objection or hindrance so long as they did not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the highway.

LORD CLYDE said that the defendants' argument and the reasoning of the crown court had gone far beyond anything that could be described as incidental or ancillary to the use of a highway

as such for the purposes of passage, nor did such an extensive use constitute a reasonable, normal or usual use of the highway as a highway.

Such an approach opened a door of uncertainty dimensions into an ill-defined area of uses that might erode the basic predominance of the essential use of a highway as a highway.

The test as to whether the public's right of access to the highway had been exceeded could not be defined in general terms but had to depend on the circumstances as a matter of degree. It required a careful assessment of the nature and extent of the activity in question.

If the purpose of the activity became the predominant purpose of the occupation of the highway, or if the occupation became more than reasonably transitional in terms of either time or space, it might come to exceed the right to use the highway.

The matter was essentially one to be judged in the light of the particular facts of the case, but his Lordship was prepared to hold that a peaceful assembly that did not obstruct the highway did not necessarily constitute a trespassory assembly.

LORD HUTTON said that the holding of a public assembly on a highway could constitute a reasonable use of it and not constitute a trespass, but his Lordship's opinion that the appeal should be allowed was based on the crown court's finding that the assembly in which the defendants had taken part on that particular highway at that particular time had been a reasonable use of the highway.

He would not hold that a peaceful and non-obstructive public assembly on a highway was always a reasonable user and therefore not a trespass.

Solicitors: Mr Philip Leach, Southwark; Douglas & Partners, Bristol; Crown Prosecution Service, Central Casework.

Manchester Airport plc v Dutton and Others

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment February 23]

A licensee with a right to occupy land was entitled to claim possession against a trespasser, whether or not that licensee was in actual occupation of the land, if that was a necessary remedy to give effect to the rights of occupation he enjoyed under the licence.

The summary procedure in Order 113 of the Rules of the Supreme Court was available to a licensee not in occupation of the land to enforce his rights under the licence against a trespasser. There was no requirement of exclusive possession of the land in order to claim a such a remedy.

The Court of Appeal so held, Lord Justice Chadwick dissenting.

The appellants' principal submission was that the airport company had no locus standi to apply for an order for possession, since a person entitled to claim possession under Order 113, rule 1 had to have an absolute title and exclusive possession. The company's licence to occupy did not give it exclusive possession.

The judge was satisfied that as a licensee the airport company had the locus standi to bring the proceedings. The licence gave the right of possession which gave a power against trespassers, and she dismissed the appeal.

The appellants appealed, the issue being whether the licence gave the airport company an interest in the land sufficient to enable it to seek an order for possession under the summary procedure in Order 113.

His Lordship said that it had long been understood that a licensee who was not in exclusive occupation did not have title to bring an action for ejectment.

An action for ejectment, the forerunner of the present action for recovery of land, as well as an action for trespass could only be brought by a person who was in possession or who had a right to be in possession. Further, that possession was synonymous, in this context, with exclusive occupation.

The licence in the present case was a clear example of a personal permission to enter the land and use it for a stipulated purpose.

It would be contrary to what Mr Justice Windeyer said in *Radich v Smith* (1959) 101 CLR 209, 222 described as "long established law" to hold that it conferred on the airport authority rights to bring an action in rem for possession of the land to which it related.

His Lordship would have allowed the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE LAWS said that it was clear that if the airport company had been in actual occupation, under the licence and the trespassers had then entered on the site, the company could have obtained an order for possession.

Their claim for possession would not, were they in occupation, be defeated by the defence of estoppel, as they enjoyed no title or estate in the land, nor any right of exclusive possession as against their licensors, which the National Trust had no power to grant.

But why could they not obtain such an order before they entered into occupation, so as to evict the trespassers and enjoy the licence granted to them?

They did so without permission from the National Trust and as against the National Trust they were trespassers. It was the appellants' intention that their occupation would make it difficult or impossible for the airport company to carry out the tree-planting works.

On June 22, 1998, the National Trust granted a licence to the airport company to occupy the land to enable the tree-planting works to be carried out.

On August 7, 1998 the airport company commenced the present proceedings to recover possession. The district judge made the order sought.

Mr Justice Steel recorded that the appellants' principal submission was that the airport company had no locus standi to apply for an order for possession, since a person entitled to claim possession under Order 113, rule 1 had to have an absolute title and exclusive possession. The company's licence to occupy did not give it exclusive possession.

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Mr Justice Steel recorded that the appellants' principal submission was that the airport company had no locus standi to apply for an order for possession, since a person entitled to claim possession under Order 113, rule 1 had to have an absolute title and exclusive possession. The company's licence to occupy did not give it exclusive possession.

The judge was satisfied that as a licensee the airport company had the locus standi to bring the proceedings. The licence gave the right of possession which gave a power against trespassers, and she dismissed the appeal.

The appellants appealed, the issue being whether the licence gave the airport company an interest in the land sufficient to enable it to seek an order for possession under the summary procedure in Order 113.

His Lordship said that it had long been understood that a licensee who was not in exclusive occupation did not have title to bring an action for ejectment.

An action for ejectment, the forerunner of the present action for recovery of land, as well as an action for trespass could only be brought by a person who was in possession or who had a right to be in possession. Further, that possession was synonymous, in this context, with exclusive occupation.

The licence in the present case was a clear example of a personal permission to enter the land and use it for a stipulated purpose.

It would be contrary to what Mr Justice Windeyer said in *Radich v Smith* (1959) 101 CLR 209, 222 described as "long established law" to hold that it conferred on the airport authority rights to bring an action in rem for possession of the land to which it related.

His Lordship would have allowed the appeal.

LORD JUSTICE LAWS said that it was clear that if the airport company had been in actual occupation, under the licence and the trespassers had then entered on the site, the company could have obtained an order for possession.

Their claim for possession would not, were they in occupation, be defeated by the defence of estoppel, as they enjoyed no title or estate in the land, nor any right of exclusive possession as against their licensors, which the National Trust had no power to grant.

But why could they not obtain such an order before they entered into occupation, so as to evict the trespassers and enjoy the licence granted to them?

They did so without permission from the National Trust and as against the National Trust they were trespassers. It was the appellants' intention that their occupation would make it difficult or impossible for the airport company to carry out the tree-planting works.

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Manchester Airport plc v Dutton and Others

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Chadwick and Lord Justice Laws

[Judgment February 23]

A licensee with a

EDUCATION

How should we tackle poor teachers?

The incompetent teacher has become one of the bogeys of the Nineties, a stereotype to rival that of the long-suffering nurse and the untrustworthy politician — or journalist. Attention has centred on estimates of how many inadequate performers there are in British classrooms, rather than on how to identify them, let alone cope with the problem.

Parents who have had the misfortune to have a poor teacher in charge of their children will know that it is not always easy to pin down the shortcomings. A teacher may be uninspiring and lacklustre, but these are not sackable offences. Too many glib statements about the defects of state schools assume that incompetence is not only rare, but obvious, and capable of only one remedy: dismissal.

Two studies published today illustrate some of the complexities facing head teachers and those judged to be incompetent. The reports are part of a larger study being carried out at Exeter University's School of Education. Without excusing incompetence or pretending that it does not exist, they question the criteria used to judge teachers, and the response of many schools.

Professor Ted Wragg, who is leading the research, is famously sympathetic to teachers and sceptical about their critics. His column in *The Times Educational Supplement* often lampoons ministers and inspectors for making what he regards as generalised and unsubstantiated allegations of incompetence. Today's reports, however, ask important questions for pupils and parents, as well as teachers.

The research looks at the treatment of incompetence from the point of view of those accused and the head teachers who have to deal with the issue. The sample — 654 heads and 70 self-selected teachers — though large, is not necessarily representative. But there are common threads running through both reports. Not surprisingly, most of the teachers accused of incompetence felt misjudged. Their explanations ranged from medical problems affecting their

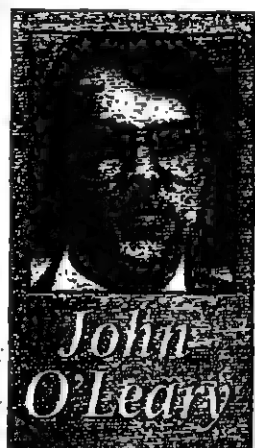
work to racial discrimination, bullying and conspiracy theories. However, fewer than one in ten of those who had completed a disciplinary procedure were deemed to have improved sufficiently to remain in their posts. Many left before matters reached that stage.

Yet 26 of the 44 teachers in completed cases are now back in the classroom, albeit often in part-time or occasional work. Some wish that they had challenged the original allegation more vigorously, taking their subsequent employment as vindication, but Professor Wragg's survey cannot show which verdict was correct. Because the allegations concerned key skills such as the maintenance of discipline, lesson planning and inadequate progress by pupils, there must be a suspicion that

some at least are in the wrong job. The head teachers' responses also raise concerns about the way allegations of incompetence are handled. Many admitted that they should have acted sooner and, with almost half of the cases taking more than a year to resolve, would have welcomed swifter resolution. Only a third had any relevant training, and needed more advice on employment law. A quarter of the teachers tackled by the heads in the survey improved enough to stay on, the rest eventually resigning or taking early retirement. But only 13 per cent were considered to have developed into good teachers, while 42 per cent were "acceptable".

Perhaps the most worrying trait to emerge is the sheer inconsistency of schools' responses. More than a third of the teachers said their school had no formal monitoring of performance and no procedure to deal with allegations of incompetence. One in six of the heads admitted that there had been no predetermined procedure to follow.

So far, teaching competence has been seen purely in terms of black and white. Today's reports suggest that there are shades of grey, and that a more systematic approach is needed if under-achievers are to be helped to improve and the no-hopers weeded out.



John O'Leary



Educational entrepreneurs Stanley Goodchild and Valerie Bragg "want to give pupils the opportunities to succeed... you have to give them some freedom and trust"

The school Swat team

A daunting task faces Stanley Goodchild and his wife Valerie Bragg as they prepare to turn around one of the worst state schools in England, but they are ready for the challenge. From September next year, 3E's Enterprises, the Birmingham company they manage, will run Kings Manor, a failing comprehensive in a rundown area of Guildford in Surrey.

Kings Manor was built to house 900 pupils, but student numbers have fallen to about 400 and, according to Ofsted, the school has dismal exam results, high absenteeism and exclusion, poor behaviour, low expectations, indifferent teaching and patchy leadership. However, Mr Goodchild and Ms Bragg, both 55, who have a strong record of saving failing schools and educating children from deprived backgrounds, are confident of success. Yet the dynamic educational entrepreneurs, who have generated millions of pounds in

This couple say they can turn around a failing school. Simon Midgley investigates

commercial and industrial investment for their schools over the years, seem surprisingly self-effacing.

"It all goes to plan, Kings Manor is going to be oversubscribed a year or so after it reopens," Mr Goodchild says. "There is disbelief among some education folk in Guildford that anything is going to happen. 'It has been like that for 15 years,' they say, 'why is it going to change now?' Well, they are going to be surprised."

Mr Goodchild may well be as good as his word. As a head teacher in the 1980s, he transformed Garth Hill, a run-down, vandal-ridden comprehensive in Bracknell, into one of the most technologically advanced schools in Europe. It became a forerunner of the Conservative Government's network of City Technology Colleges (CTCs), inner-city schools with curricula biased towards science, technology and mathematics.

Valerie Bragg, whom he married last year, also knows a thing or two about turning sows' ears into silk purses. In 1988 she became principal of Kingshurst, the first CTC, in an unprepossessing area of east Birmingham.

When she started, 83 per cent of students were leaving at 16. Now more than 90 per cent stay on and 40 per cent go on to university. The mystery, however, is precisely how they intend to turn Kings Manor around. It rapidly becomes apparent that few decisions have been made.

We know that the present school will close and its buildings will undergo a £1 million refurbishment in a conscious "re-branding" of the institution. It will re-

open next year as a voluntary-aided arts and technology college.

The couple will decide what steps to take only after talking to as many parents, teachers and others as possible. Mr Goodchild says there is no single table d'hôte answer for transforming a school's performance: rather one must choose from an à la carte menu.

While they may try to repeat some of the successful initiatives at Garth Hill (for example, school uniforms, discipline) and Kingshurst (the International Baccalaureate rather than A levels and a mix of vocational and academic education), they want to fashion their educational solutions to Kings Manor's precise needs.

Mr Goodchild adds that successful schools are "owned" by the community. "If you can create a school seen to evolve from the aspirations of the community," he says, "then it has a far better chance of survival or development. Everything is possible if parents share the vision of what the school will be like in future."

Ms Bragg says that there will probably be vocational, technological, scientific and arts education. She also expects that Kingshurst CTC and the Guildford college will pioneer new technologies such as video-conferencing to share teaching and expertise. It is hoped that it will develop strong links with businesses, hospitals and universities.

With the help of an advisory team, the couple will appoint the majority of the governors, a new head and staff. To some, the lack of an educational blueprint for Kings Manor might seem vaguely worrying. Ms

Bragg also talks in generalities. "It is not one thing," she says. "It involves raising the expectations of the students and making them believe that they can do it. To do that, you have got to give them some freedom and trust."

"You need a curriculum that excites, motivates and switches them on. And that curriculum will not be the same for every child. Too often children are forced to do things. I think you need to ask them what they want to do. It is a case of encouragement, praise and taking an interest, looking at their work."

"I mean, you have only to say to a child 'I am really impressed with what you are doing' to see them growing."

"It is also about involving the community — pupils, staff, everybody — in the vision. So what will actually emerge will be unique to Kings Manor."

3E's Enterprises, the commercial arm of Kingshurst CTC where Mr Goodchild is MD and Mrs Bragg a director, is being paid an undisclosed management fee until the day the college opens, after which payments will be related to performance targets, such as raising pupil numbers and improving exam results. Any future profits will be shared between Kings Manor and Kingshurst CTC.

The couple will not reap any financial benefit from the deal. "Let's face it," Mr Bragg said, "if we wanted to be rich we would have done something very different from education wouldn't we?"

So why are they doing it? "We believe passionately in education," she says. "I did not like school myself. I have this passion to make it enjoyable and interesting. We feel that too many children become switched off around the age of 12. They underachieve and in many cases regret it for the rest of their lives."

"What drives us is this feeling that we want to give pupils the opportunities to succeed."

I have this passion to make school enjoyable

Weighed down by books

French pupils suffer from a heavy workload. Adam Sage reports

Sebastien Rougier staggered out of Lycée Michelet on the outskirts of Paris looking like a backpacker in the Himalayas. His rucksack was bulging, his legs were bowed.

"Sometimes it can be worse than this," Sebastien, 17, said, puffing. "Our parents spend about £150 a year on textbooks, which weigh us down and which we often don't use. All we get for the money is back problems."

His comment echoes the views of Claude Allègre, the French Education Minister, who has launched a national debate that is likely to revolutionise the relationship between classes and textbooks. "These books are too expensive and stuffed full of things that children don't need to know," he says.

Paul Landric, head of Collège Jean Moulin, in Perpignan in the South West, was among those who supported the minister. "Last year," he says, "we weighed our pupils with their bags and discovered that at the age of 11, they often carry between 10 and 14 kilos — 40 per cent of their own weight. Parents have been telling us for some time that their children are suffering health problems, such as back pain, as a result. The difficulty is that every-



Children carry 40 per cent of their own weight home each day

one in France considers the written word more important than the spoken word of the teacher. We have an almost religious attitude to the book."

This did not stop M Landric ordering the dissection of textbooks for a class of 13-year-olds last term. The works were cut up and the pupils handed a few pages at a time, drastically reducing the average weight of their satchels.

The minister has also raised the problem of whether the books are for the use of teachers to help them to structure

their courses, or for pupils. In practice, publishers design products that will appeal to teachers: full of graphs, diagrams and pictures.

As Denis Paget, the deputy general secretary of the National Union of Secondary School Teachers, says: "The books have become so exuberant that it is often impossible for children to find their way through them."

One book for 17-year-olds explains Balzac's novel *Le Père Goriot* in terms of "narrative

ised speech" and "activated agendas" — which is no more comprehensible in French than it is in English. This is accompanied by a "simple diagram" that rates the characters in terms of their "destination", "object" and "attitude", linking them with a shower of arrows. The work concludes: "The system of enunciation is conserved when the subjects' wording demands it."

Paget says: "What happens is that pupils get a 400-page book but only use only about 50 pages during the year." This is bad for the national budget because the State pays for all textbooks until children leave colleges at the age of 16 to enter the lycée, where their parents have to find the £150 annual cost of books. Because the average price of a textbook is £17, the result is that they don't get changed for years on end. Sometimes, they can be 15 years old and inappropriate to new programmes."

In the short term, M Allègre hopes that the ticking-off he gave publishers will produce smaller, cheaper and more comprehensible books.

In the long term, IT advocates say, computers will provide teachers with all the materials they need, leaving textbooks to offer simple guidance and exercises for pupils.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

MOTOR RACING

Williams out to regain pole position

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

THE signs pointed to the Williams museum, but there were no lights on in the room dedicated to the most successful constructor of grand prix cars in history. If Williams is supposed to be a team in crisis — 1998 was its first season without a victory in ten years — then Sir Frank Williams refuses to acknowledge it.

Of course he was stung by the ignominy of seeing his cars run in the middle of the pack while McLaren and Ferrari were duelling for the world championship, but one bad season in 20 does not mean that his team is in danger of collapse.

"Last year brought us a season that was bad for the ego," he admitted, "because so many people had put so much mental and physical energy into the car and the team. But you have to take the rough with the smooth. The upside is that a year like that makes you examine what you are doing."

This from a man who had been threatening to turn Formula One into a Williams benefit. Seven seasons had brought five constructors' championships, bringing his total to nine — more than any other team — plus drivers' titles for Alain Prost, Nigel Mansell, Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve.

By the standards of most other teams, last season was not that bad. Williams finished in third place, but what really stung Williams and Patrick Head, his long-time partner, was the realisation that their cars were outclassed.

The reaction to defeat has been vigorous and no effort has been spared at the factory, which is on the outskirts of the tiny village of Grove, Oxfordshire. This season's

car is all new, as are the drivers, Alessandro Zanardi and Ralf Schumacher having replaced Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen.

The public's view of Williams is the expressionless face glued to a television monitor. It is impossible to tell, by looking at him, how things are going on the track — but make no mistake, the passion is there under the surface.

The 24-hour flight to Melbourne, where the season begins on Sunday, is a wearing experience and must be torture for someone confined to a wheelchair and needing constant attention. It would be surprising if, during it, Williams' thoughts did not stray back to those early days when financial circumstances were so desperate that he had to conduct business from a telephone box because his office phone had been cut off; when mechanics were instructed to "acquire" used tyres from Ferrari. This is the team owner who persisted with Nigel Mansell when the Briton was widely thought to be overrated and who was determined to harness the maverick brilliance of Ayrton Senna.

Williams also has a gambling streak, which is why he is willing to take a chance on Zanardi and Schumacher. Zanardi, twice CART (IndyCar) champion is largely an unknown quantity in Formula One; Schumacher, Michael's erratic brother, spent much of last season ploughing his Jordan into the gravel traps.

Williams is banking on their contrasting qualities to help inspire a revival in a season that he refuses to accept as an interim one until the arrival of new BMW engines for



Zanardi, left, and Ralf Schumacher, the drivers Williams has chosen to carry the standard this season

2000. This season's Renault-based Supertec engine is improved, though almost certainly will still not be a match for the Mercedes of McLaren, or Ferrari, which means that the drivers will have to rely on the chassis and aerodynamics redressing the balance, particularly on the twistier, low-speed circuits, such as Hungary.

"Alex is a charming individual," Williams said, "while Ralf is very intense. He is also a very aggressive driver. Alex, at times, has not been so quick in testing, but over a race distance, there is not much between them. People had told me

throughout 1997 to watch Alex in CART and he impressed me a lot because he seems a real fighter. We are taking a bit of a chance with him, but not much. With Ralf, you see a driver who had his problems but can only get better."

The big question is whether the team as a whole can get better and so relegate last season to a mere blip in the history of a remarkable organisation. Williams is anticipating closer racing than for some years, with Jordan, Benetton and, possibly, the brash British American Racing team, making an impact.

After more than 330 grands prix, he is eager to start racing again. "I am waiting with some impatience," he said. "We have worked hard on what we think could be a special car, but we will have no idea how good it is until that first qualifying session. Then the contest really will have started."

LINKS
WEBSITE: www.formula1.com/
TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Qualifying, 2.15pm. Sunday: The race live, 2am (repeated at 11.05am, highlights 11.45pm).

ATHLETICS

British meeting continues to drop in status

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN MAEBASHI, JAPAN

GREAT Britain's most prestigious athletics meeting has been downgraded to third-division status by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). The British Grand Prix, a member of the elite division until the formation of the Golden League last year, has been relegated for the second successive season and has slipped outside the world's top 15 meetings for the first time.

After winning the men's European Cup and topping the European championships medals table last year, Britain entered 1999 as the No 2 track and field nation in the world, looking up only to the United States. Yes, in the league table of meetings, Britain has dropped behind Qatar, famous for its pearls but not its athletes.

However, for those who run the sport in Britain, there were mitigating circumstances last year. The collapse of the British Athletic Federation in October 1997 left them with an interim governing body and without the finances to underpin a top quality meeting.

The British Grand Prix, formerly held at Crystal Palace but more recently at Sheffield, was omitted from the wealthy Golden League when it began in 1998. Under the new structure, the first division effectively became the second division. Now Sheffield has been relegated from grand prix I to II and Britain's other IAAF summer international, at Gateshead, a grand prix II meeting, booted out of the league altogether.

"We are obviously very disappointed, but we are determined to get straight back to grand prix I and grand prix II status," David Moorcroft, the chief executive of UK Athletics, the new governing body, said yesterday.

It is understood that Dr Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, offered the BBC a chance to preserve Britain's grand prix I status in return for a \$1 million purchase of television rights to the Golden

League, but this was refused. Towards the end of last year, the IAAF indicated Sheffield's fate, but suggested that there might be room for manoeuvre. Yesterday, though, Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF secretary, said on the eve of the world indoor championships here that a letter was on its way to Moorcroft confirming the downgrading.

Sheffield had failed, Gyulai said, to meet the standards required to retain its grand prix I status. The lower status will make it more difficult to attract athletes as the number of points available towards qualifying for the grand prix final drops with each division.

More might have to be spent in appearance fees and prize-money. Nevertheless, Britain is better equipped to deal with the summer ahead and Moorcroft was pleased with the British indoor grand prix in Birmingham last month, promoted by Fast Track.

"The BUPA grand prix proved what we can do," Moorcroft said. "We felt that last year's results were an exception and we gave the IAAF every assurance that we have the finances and infrastructure to merit grand prix status, but this was not enough."

It was not all bad news for Britain yesterday. Nebiolo said that a decision on where to stage the 2003 world championships would be delayed at least until November. The British bid for London is stuck in the blocks, waiting for the completion of the sale of Wembley Stadium.

Max Jones, Britain's performance director, expressed the hope that the athletes would maintain the momentum from 1998. In six previous world indoor championships, Great Britain has won only three gold medals. Jones is hoping for four here — from Ashia Hansen, in the triple jump, Colin Jackson, in the 60 metres hurdles, Jamie Baulch, in the 400 metres, and the men's 4 x 400 metres team.

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with one man universally recognised as the undisputed king of the ring."

—Glyn Leach, Editor, *Boxing Monthly*.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan prepare for challenge from their peers

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

FOR A fourth summer of the JJB Super League to produce a different winner would involve Wigan Warriors, the 1998 champions, being cast as one-hit wonders — a dangerous assumption to make of any side coached by Johnnie Wainwright. Nevertheless, they face a more formidable challenge from Leeds Rhinos, who were runners-up last year, with a resurgent Bradford Bulls joining the fray.

Cynics argued that St Helens and Bradford won the first two Super League titles because Wigan let their standards slip, an impression that was corrected by Wigan last season. However, one of several optimistic signs for the sport is that the rest are catching Wigan up: in the case of Leeds, under Graham Murray, they may have overtaken them.

The successful introduction of the play-offs last year, combined with as many as a dozen clubs who can reasonably lay claim to the position among the top five make this the most unpredictable season for years. Rather than being dominated by one superpower, the league has three, in Leeds, Wigan and Bradford, with significant strides being taken by Warrington Wolves and Castleford Tigers.

With two former Great Britain coaches back from Australia in Ellery Hanley, at St Helens, and Malcolm Reilly, at Huddersfield Giants, another club that has caught the ambitious mood despite finishing bottom last year, there is no shortage of the determination necessary to withstand an extended 30-match programme.

One of the few disappointments of the season, which starts when Wigan play Hull Sharks at home tonight, is that the advancements made by playing once a week are being compromised by the addition of seven further fixtures, with the introduction of Gateshead Thunder and Wakefield Trinity to a 14-team competition and a series of "box-office" midweek matches. Leeds and



league with a "ladies night" event. Because it was good for business in Australia does not necessarily mean it will have the same impact here.

Nonetheless, season-ticket sales are up across the board. It may not sound much, but, in these turbulent times for many professional sports, rugby league has the benefit of stability, both in financial terms, with a revised television contract up to 2003, and the knowledge that "summer" is established as the accepted season for the league's competition.

With talk of breakaways and feuds now over, the new feel is down principally to the entry of Gateshead and the professional manner in which it has been set up. A demanding season will put strains on squads, but also bring to the fore names such as Kevin Sinfield and Karl Pratt, at Leeds, and Leon Pryce and Paul Deacon, at Bradford, as British stars of the future.

By the play-offs, Wigan will have said farewell to Central Park after 97 years and moved to the 25,000-seat stadium taking shape at Robin Park — a symbol of change in a game that is heading, albeit slowly, in the right direction.

Arguably the most famous number in rugby league — the 102,569 spectators at Odsal, who watched the 1954 Challenge Cup final replay between Warrington and Halifax — will disappear from the record books tomorrow.

All 110,000 tickets have been sold for the opening Australian National Rugby League double-header, between Manly and Newcastle and St George-Illawarra and Parramatta, which marks the opening of Stadium Australia, the venue for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

Wigan, for instance, meet three times before the play-offs. By the time that the Great Britain squad heads off to Australia and the autumn series with that country and New Zealand — presuming that all wrinkles are ironed out by the Rugby League International Federation next week — Andy Goodway, the British coach, will be in a familiar position of trying to coax the best out of some tired players.

The final countdown

The top five clubs play elimination and qualifying play-offs. The top team in the Super League is awarded by having to win only one play-off to reach the Grand Final, at Old Trafford on October 9. For the fifth-placed club to become champions, they would have to beat all the teams above them.

ROUND ONE (Sept. 17-19): Elimination play-off: fourth v fifth. Qualifying play-off: second v third.

ROUND TWO (Sept. 24-26): Elimination semi-final: qualifying play-off loser v elimination play-off winner. Qualifying semi-final: first v qualifying play-off winner.

ROUND THREE (Oct. 3): Elimination final: qualifying semi-final loser v elimination semi-final winner.

GRAND FINAL: Semi-final round-three winners.

PRIZE-MONEY: Winners: £275,000. Runners-up: £175,000. Third: £135,000. Fourth: £100,000. Fifth: £70,000.

WEBSITE: www.superleague.co.uk

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1, 7.30pm (live) and Sundays, 6.55pm



Retief Goosen plays his opening shot of the first round in Penina yesterday on his way to a 68 and a share of second place, two shots behind Smyth

Smyth's old-time sorcery spells trouble for rivals

FROM MEL WEBB IN PENINA, PORTUGAL

AS A rule, sport is demonstrably the province of the young and vigorous, but on the European tour no truck is countenanced with such ageing notions. In golf, if you're good enough, you're young enough and yesterday's callow youth was left hyperventilating as one of the game's senior citizens showed them as clean a pair of heels as they will ever see.

Like Old Father Thames, Des Smyth just keeps rolling along. He is one of only eight still regularly playing European Tour events whose membership began in the days of pre-qualifying, the Russian roulette system under which competitors had to play their way into tournaments on the Mondays preceding them.

They were old-time hustlers, this brave little band, men who put their talents on the line in a hand-to-mouth existence that risked all and guaranteed nothing. Cruel though it undoubtedly was, those who survived were imbued with a toughness and a resilience that continue to serve them well, even as their golfing dotage draws nigh.

Smyth is a case in point. Yesterday was the 46th year and twentieth day of his life, which makes him the second-oldest man in the field at the Portuguese Open, but there was nothing remotely venerable about his golf, a 66 giving him a two-stroke lead on a course on which preferred lies are being used because of a lack of consistent growth on the fairways.

Throughout his career, Smyth, who

played his 500th European Tour event at the Dubai Desert Classic three weeks ago, has been possessed of a sorcerer's touch on and around the greens. Give him a wedge or a putter and ask him to demonstrate what he can do with it, then marvel as everything short of a Rachmaninov piano concerto will issue forth.

It was with the short-distance clubs that he built his six-under-par score. He chipped in twice for two of his seven birdies and took only 24 putts. Come to think of it, perhaps that snatch of music that wafted across the course in mid-morning might have been the big Rachmaninov number after all.

The Irishman was, naturally, quietly pleased with himself, but he has been around too long to get carried away. "An awful lot can happen between now and Sunday," he said. "This was just one good round, that's all."

Having played indifferently in his first two appearances of the season, he said that he had scared himself into playing well in the face of ever-improving standards being produced by the next generation. "The 66 was due less to confidence, more to fear," he said. "These days I feel like a hare in a coursing race."

He will probably be caught today, hounds being the dogged sorts they are. But for now, it did not matter; for now, it was Hare 66, Hounds 68 or worse.

Scores, page 48

US-based Swede in Ryder Cup picture

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN MIAMI

EVEN six months before the event, the Ryder Cup is dominating golf. Ben Crenshaw is taking a high profile as he seeks to whip up enthusiasm and support for his United States team at Boston in September. Meanwhile, a little-known name has forced itself into the list of candidates for the Europe team. Mention the name Gabriel Hjertstedt to most followers of the game in Great Britain and they probably would not have a clue who he is. That could be about to change.

While all eyes were on the World Match Play Championship in La Costa, California last week, Hjertstedt was winning a tournament in Tucson, Arizona, for those players on the US PGA Tour not ranked in the world's top 65. It was his second victory in North America. In 1997, he won the BC Open.

Yesterday, he coped well with the famed Blue Monster course in the opening round of the Doral-Ryder Open, still on a high after his victory on Sunday. "That gave me a lot more confidence," he said. "When I started today, I thought to myself: 'This is a new week. Go for it.'"

A 69, three under par, put him a stroke behind the early leaders — Esteban Toledo, Doug Barron and Olin Browne. Jesper Parnevik had

a 71, Thomas Bjorn a 72 and Nick Faldo a 73.

Hjertstedt, 27, is slight, quietly spoken and, being dark-haired, looks more American than Swedish. Though born in Sweden, he lived in Australia for 13 years before moving first to the West Coast of the United States and then to Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

He believes that he needs to win at least one more tournament over here to come into the reckoning for Mark James's Europe team, for which he is eligible as a member of the European Tour. "If I do so, I will certainly have a chance," he said. "I would love to play in it. I think it would be nerve-racking, but I would like to see some of the fellows I played junior golf with again."

Faldo salvaged what was a disappointing round by single-putting his last three greens and taking birdies on two of the holes. There was a testing wind to add to the difficulties of this 7,125-yard course where Faldo won in 1995 when he rejoined the US PGA Tour. Such victories seem a long time ago now. He was muttering to himself as he strode off in the direction of the putting green and practice ground having confessed: "I am still not hitting it full blast."

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

SAVE 20% AT THE PIER



Today, The Times gives you the opportunity to save 20% on your shopping bill when you spend £50 or more in a single transaction at The Pier. The offer is available until Monday, April 5 at all 18 stores of The Pier nationwide. To qualify for the 20% discount, attach four differently numbered tokens to the card which was inserted in Monday's paper and four different tokens to the card which you receive a second 20% discount voucher to use at a later date.

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CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 46 - More on responder's second bid

The principles governing responder's second bid are similar to those on the first round. I will first look at the situation where opener has shown a minimum hand. If responder has:

- (a) a minimum hand (say 6-9 HCP), he should either pass or give simple preference to opener's first suit (i.e. put opener back to his first suit at the minimum level);
- (b) something extra (10-12 HCP with a fit or 11-12 without a fit) he should make an invitational bid;
- (c) 13 HCP or more, he should make sure game is reached.

Here are some examples. Suppose the bidding has started 1C-1A-2C:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| (A) ♠ KQ43
♥ 43
♦ QJ1072
♣ 76 | (B) ♠ A98652
♥ 5
♦ K54
♣ JS4 | (C) ♠ KJ105
♥ Q3
♦ AJ97
♣ 1097 |
| (D) ♠ A10542
♥ K43
♦ A4
♣ 1065 | (E) ♠ QJ76
♥ A2
♦ Q107
♣ A1042 | (F) ♠ A10853
♥ A64
♦ KJS4
♣ 3 |

Hand (A) is not that bad a hand but there is little prospect of game facing a minimum Two Heart bid. Pass. On Hand (B) it may be tempting to bid Two Spades but how many hearts do you think partner has? Remember, he would open One No-Trump if he was balanced (no void, no singleton and no more than one doubleton), so his distribution cannot be 5-3-3-2. If he is 5-4-2-2 he would bid his four-card suit in preference to rebidding his hearts, ergo he has a six-card suit. There is no reason to be afraid of a Two Heart contract. It is better to let things drop as quickly as possible. Pass.

Hands (C) and (D) both have 11 HCP, worth a game invitation. You have already shown your spade suit, so with Hand (C) bid Two No-Trumps and with Hand (D) bid Three Hearts.

Hands (E) and (F) are similar but a little stronger. Now you want to ensure that game is reached so bid Three No-Trumps and Four Hearts respectively.

These hands have been relatively straightforward because the right denomination has been fairly clear. This has meant that you could either bid game or make a sensible limit bid, depending on your values. It is not always as easy as that. Next week I will look at some examples of how to investigate further when you are not sure what trumps should be.

□ You can get any lesson you may have missed from this beginners' course by sending two 2p stamps per lesson (or five stamps per set of five) to Sally Brock, 73 Toneridge Lane, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 7QA. Don't forget to state which ones you want.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| PISOLITHS | CISEAUX PAS |
| a. Kidney stones | a. A ballet step |
| b. Learning columns | b. A false move |
| c. Rock particles | c. The opening bid |
| STERADIAN | COUVADE |
| a. Denture cleanser | a. Lingerie |
| b. Geometrical quantity | b. Espionage |
| c. Starlit satellite | c. Natal ritual |

Answers on page 50

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Psychod out

Garry Kasparov, the world champion, continued his winning ways in the ninth round of the elite tournament at Linas by dispatching Vassily Ivanchuk for the second time. Kasparov now leads with 7/9, a colossal score in a tournament of this strength, by a 1½ point margin over his closest rival, Vladimir Kramnik, the Russian grandmaster.

However, the most striking thing about Kasparov's win against Ivanchuk is that the Ukrainian grandmaster, awed by Kasparov's dominating presence at the board, may have resigned prematurely.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Vassily Ivanchuk
Linas 1999

Queen's Gambit Accepted

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1. d4 | d5 |
| 2. Nf3 | d6 |
| 3. Nc3 | e6 |
| 4. e3 | c5 |
| 5. Bxc4 | e5 |
| 6. 0-0 | Nf6 |
| 7. Bb3 | Nc6 |
| 8. Nd3 | cxd4 |
| 9. exd4 | Be7 |
| 10. Re1 | 0-0 |
| 11. a3 | Na5 |
| 12. Bc2 | b5 |
| 13. d5 | Nc4 |
| 14. Qd3 | Re8 |
| 15. e4 | exd5 |
| 16. axb5 | a5 |
| 17. b3 | Nd6 |
| 18. Nd4 | Bb7 |
| 19. f3 | Re8 |
| 20. Na4 | Bf8 |
| 21. Bg5 | g5 |
| 22. Qd2 | Rae1+ |
| 23. Re1 | Nd8 |
| 24. Re2 | Bb4 |
| 25. Qe3 | Rc7 |
| 26. Bc3 | Re7 |
| 27. Qc1 | Rae2 |
| 28. Bxe2 | Qe7 |

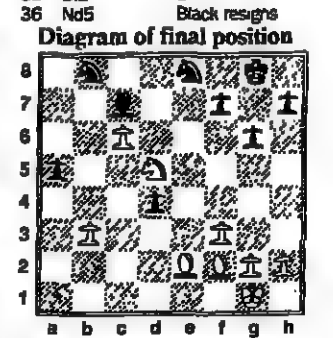


Diagram of final position

Saving clause
Here Ivanchuk resigned, assuming that after 36... Nxc6 (if Black cannot play this, then his position really is hopeless) 37 Bb5 White would win a piece. However, after 36... Nxc6 37 Bb5 Nxb4 38 Nxb4 Nd6 White can do no better than 39 Bxd3 axb4 40 Bxd4 when White is certainly better, but Black can continue to resist.

Score recap
Full scores out of nine are as follows: Kasparov 7; Kramnik 5; Anand 5; Adams 4; Topalov and Leko 4; Svidler and Ivanchuk 3.

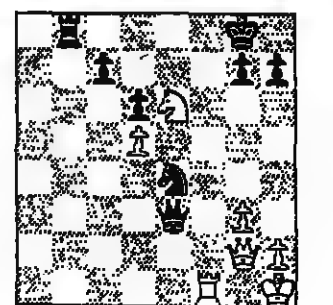
Keene online
You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Weiss — Deshmukh, Elista 1998. With his extra pawn and active pieces, Black seems to be doing well but White's next move forced a revision of this assessment. How did he continue?



Solution on page 50

European Cup: Ferguson eyes semi-final place after fine display at Old Trafford

United look forward to next hurdle

By Matt Dickinson

ALEX FERGUSON could relax yesterday, seemingly surrounded by the riches of Croesus. The official launch of his testimonial had added a year that will see him add at least £1 million, tax free, to his salary as manager of Manchester United. And then there was the wealth accrued by his team the previous night, as they banked a 2-0 victory in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final against Internazionale.

It was a typically daredevil triumph by this United side, who toyed with a 5-0 rout as well as late disaster, but they did enough to convince most inside Old Trafford, and quite probably the San Siro, that the semi-finals beckon. Ferguson would not admit as much yesterday, but his satisfaction was as transparent as Inter's plummeting morale. "We will score over there," Ferguson insisted for at least the fifth time since Wednesday night and he is adamant that not even the return of Ronaldo can threaten his side's well-earned advantage.

He is probably right and such was the self-belief fostered by United's triumph at a bubbling Old Trafford that the mind could not stray from the tests that may lie ahead. The route to the final in Barcelona on May 26 is already being plotted, with Bayern Munich, Juventus and Dynamo Kiev the most likely possible semi-final opponents.

All are clubs of impressive stature, but the style of the victory on Wednesday night has thrown up tantalising thoughts that United can match, and beat, the best. It is not just in Ferguson's eye at the Cliff training ground that such presumptuous calculations are taking place. The Football Association's international sub-committee refuses to accept the Scotsman's protestations that not only is he reluctant to manage England, but incapable of it because of his Govan breeding.

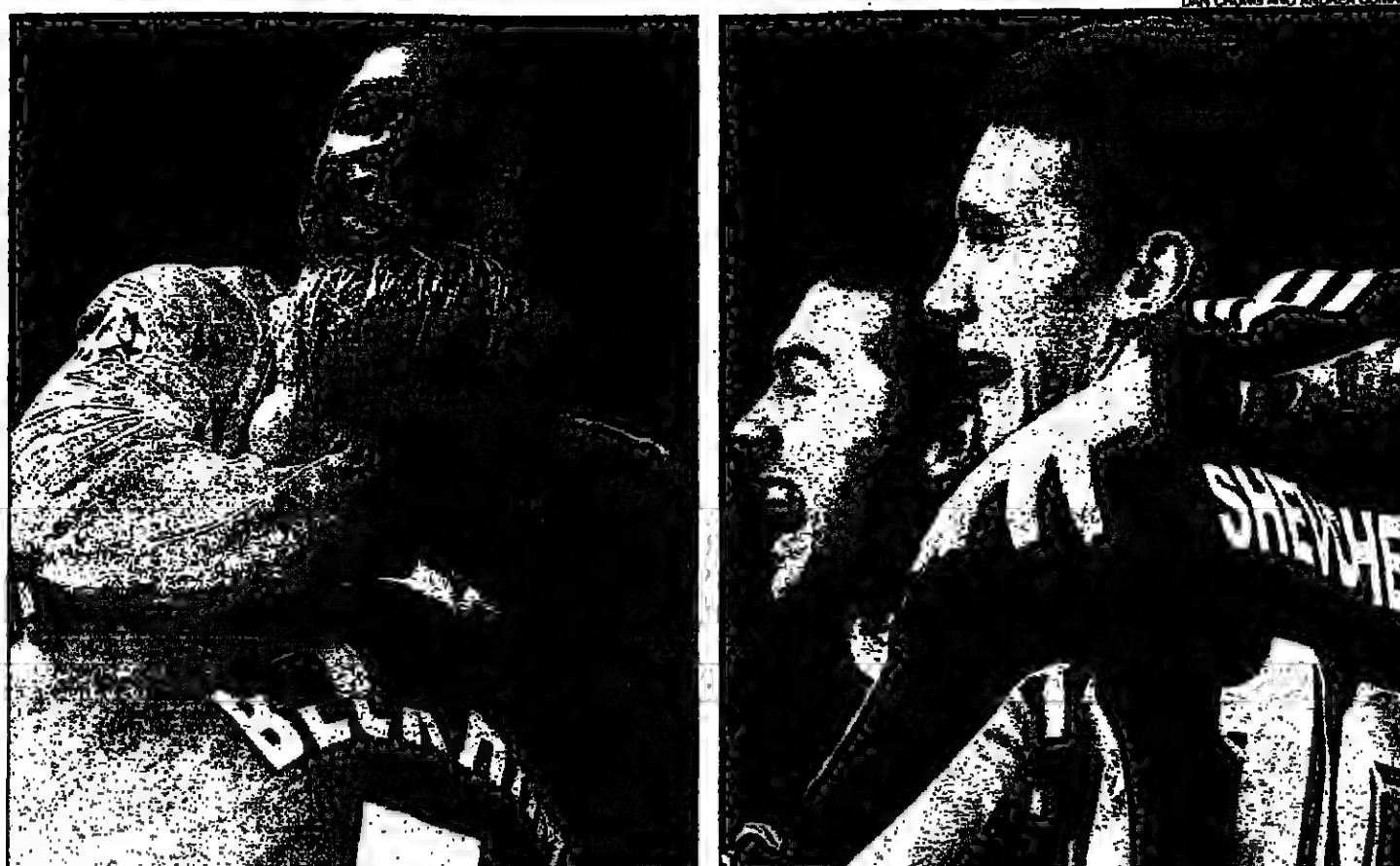
The committee men cling to the hope that he and Brian Kidd can be persuaded to resume their coaching partnership if United win the European Cup. A few minutes with Ferguson yesterday would have persuaded them that they are wasting

their time. First, there was the unveiling of a testimonial year that will not be quite the same if the principal beneficiary has jumped ship. More significantly, there were Ferguson's words, which undermined the notion that the first thing he will do upon lifting the European Cup is look for pastures new, if not retire altogether after 25 years in management.

"Are you saying that you wake up the next morning and all of a sudden your work is finished?" he said. "I enjoy working, it's the best part of your life." On Wednesday night, it was not hard to imagine that he had one of the best jobs imaginable. It was not United at their best — but there was enormous comfort to be drawn from the displays of Peter Schmeichel, Dwight Yorke and David Beckham. Beckham's performance was notable not just for the excellence of his passes, two of which furnished Yorke with his headed goals, but for the strength with which he handled his reunion with Diego Simeone.

It was the England international who initiated the swapping of shirts with the Argentinian counterpart after the game — "I will probably frame it," he said — and he chatted afterwards as though he was at ease with the world. "That ends it all, I hope," he said and perhaps now even opposing fans in the FA Carling Premiership will allow his talent to breathe a little easier. Beckham thought United had "probably done enough" to look forward to the semi-finals, although the Inter revival in the final half-hour suggested that the second leg will not be without its dramas.

The Italians came close to snatching a precious away goal and United's inability to close a match down remains a maddening flaw. There are signs, though, that, like Beckham, the team is maturing. They are less prone to the loss of discipline that Ottmar Hitzfeld, the Borussia Dortmund coach, put down to them wanting European success too much and although harder tests await than Inter, United appear ready for any challenge.



Consistent goalscorers such as Yorke, left, celebrating with Beckham, and Shevchenko are worth their weight in gold to their teams

Shevchenko sets goal standard

By Rob Hughes

The importance of a goalscorer has never been more earnest than in the European Cup. Be it Dwight Yorke, Andriy Shevchenko, Filippo Inzaghi or Giovanni Elber — each of whom scored on Wednesday night — the mathematical fact is that he who scores the first goal does not lose the game in Europe. That holds good for 84 per cent of the 76 matches played this season.

Small wonder that Manchester United feel vindicated by the £12 million fee they paid for Yorke and that Dynamo Kiev have resisted more than £15 million for Shevchenko. It is the ability of Yorke to remain composed when opportunity knocks, the cold nerve of Shevchenko to finish where others freeze, that makes them exceptions in a team sport.

If United and Kiev press home their advantage in the second legs of their quarter-final ties, and if they avoid each other in the semi-finals, who knows how much the value of those two players will rise by the time of the final in Barcelona in May?

It is an inexorable law of the football business that goals are gold in the bank, but, just as Yorke can put

them in only when someone provides the ball as exquisitely as David Beckham, so Shevchenko relies on an almost telepathic partnership. In the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, Ian St John, who preceded the remarkable duo of Kevin Keegan and John Toshack at Liverpool, had some telling observations after Toshack's Real Madrid were held 1-1 at home by Kiev.

"He's some striker, Shevchenko, but the other one is the better player," St John said. "The other one, Sergei Rebrov, is a Russian among Ukrainians. He does not have the starting pace, the greed for goals or the athletic stamina of Shevchenko, yet Rebrov is the Ukraine player of the year for the second time. What Rebrov does better than Shevchenko is share the ball. He sees more, he instigates more and, although Shevchenko has scored 15 goals in 25 European Cup games, Rebrov created the opening for him again this week."

"I can find my partner with my eyes closed," Rebrov had said, and this time he probably did. It was routine football, the ball kicked long by Alexander Shovkovsky, the goalkeeper, and Shevchenko, all 5ft 6in

of him, outjumping Fernando Hierro, the big Real Madrid defender. That released Shevchenko — who, of course, had to anticipate his team-mate leaping so high — one-on-one with Bodo Illgner, the Real Madrid goalkeeper. No contest. Shevchenko scored low and precisely.

Though Predrag Mijatovic, whose goal won the European Cup final last season, equalised with a free kick, Real Madrid missed further chances that fell to Mijatovic, Morientes and Raúl. In the second leg, when Kiev should be thriving on Real Madrid will need the kind of inspiration that Juventus found last year to turn a 1-1 home leg draw into a 5-2 aggregate win.

Inzaghi scored for Juventus three times in Kiev, but only once in the Stadio delle Alpi on Wednesday, where Olympiakos forced a late penalty to go home with only a 2-1 deficit. "We came off the pitch physically and morally destroyed," Inzaghi said. "We deserved more and I could have scored twice more, but the referee allowed four minutes of injury time and the penalty came

in the sixth minute. We will have to show our team spirit in Greece."

In Germany, there is one truly captivating striker, and he is Brazilian. Like Yorke, like Shevchenko, Elber comes alive under Europe's big lights and, on the half-hour, with a typical volley, he began Bayern Munich's 2-0 defeat of Kaiserslautern.

"They are the better team, that's obvious," Otto Rehagel, the Kaiserslautern trainer, said, "but the fear that Bayern would totally outclass us didn't happen and it does not mean we can't qualify." However, Rehagel senses that the loss of Olaf Marschall, his main goalscorer, from the first leg, and probably through the same knee injury for the return match, could dull Kaiserslautern's edge.

In Europe, as the facts demonstrate, you are lost without the presence of a genuine striker and someone to trigger him. So while Grigory Surkis, the Kiev chairman, discusses the price for Shevchenko with AC Milan, a really smart and really rich buyer might offer Ukraine's champion club £30 million for Shevchenko and Rebrov. It is only money and the European Cup appears sometimes as if it invents the stuff.

The builders are still in at Barnsley. Yellow dump trucks groaned their way up and down hills of soil at Oakwell yesterday as work continues on the improvement of the stadium. Mud caught in the wheels of the players' BMWs and Toyota Land Cruisers as they sped away into the Yorkshire gloom. The big-time bestowed plenty of benefits on the club during its doomed but feisty one-season flirtation with the FA Carling Premiership.

Tomorrow, the big time is back in town. Not to linger like it did before, but like a long-lost love on a flying visit. The cold touch of reality has invaded the romanticism that clung to Barnsley last season as they fought to avoid relegation. The Nationwide League has not been kind to them and this morning, far from pressing for an immediate return to the top flight, they

lie sixteenth in the first division. They still have 14,000 loyal season ticket-holders and a warm and courteous atmosphere even in the football clubs of the North, but they have not scored for the past four games, have lost their two best players, Andrew Ward and Neil Redfern, and their manager, Danny Wilson, who is masterminding Sheffield Wednesday's tentative revival a few miles away.

Their hopes this season rest now on the evident ability and candour of John Hendrie, their impressive young manager, and on the visit of Tottenham Hotspur tomorrow. A place in the FA Cup semi-finals is at stake, an honour that eluded them even in their glory days.

Hendrie bides his time in quest for glory



Oliver Holt sees how Barnsley are coping with life outside the Premiership

They did beat Manchester United in the competition last season, on a memorable night at Oakwell when Hendrie was one of the scorers. He has eluded those memories from his mind, though. Wilson

was a folk hero in Barnsley, the man who led the side, against all odds and to the astonishment of the football community at large, into the promised land amid the fat cats and billion-dollar corporations. Nothing Hendrie does can equal such an impact.

Once Barnsley succumbed to the drop, in fact, and lost all the television money that comes with Premiership status, they were condemned to a lowering of their sights. Those who expected them to go straight back up have been swiftly disillusioned, but Hendrie has refused to lose his composure. "People say that it must have been hard following Danny Wilson," he said yesterday in one of



Hendrie realistic approach

play a big part in it. The supporters here are not content with what is happening now. They have had a taste of the big time, and they want more. There is a high expectancy level and there is no way that we will settle for the Nationwide League.

"But you have to remember that Danny was here for four years and he didn't get it right for the first two. It won't happen overnight for me either. I have been in the game all my life and I am not muggins enough to think like that. If some thought we would go straight back up, I was not one of them."

Tomorrow, George Graham will bring David Ginola, Steffen Freund, Darren Anderson and the

rest of his internationals back to Barnsley as they try to move closer to a second Wembley appearance this season. For Hendrie, fresh from his latest reverse, the 1-0 home defeat by Bradford City on Wednesday, the game represents a welcome respite from league woes and another chance to advance his managerial education.

"It has been a pretty steep learning process," he said. "I did not even have a wee bit of an apprenticeship. The biggest shock was the amount of hours I have had to put in. At times, it means you can't have any family life. I realise now that, for the 18 years of my playing career, I was on my holidays. You don't realise how lucky you are."

Tomorrow, against a Spurs team sweeping all before them in the cups, the hard work is likely to become even harder.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NBA Eastern Conference: Detroit Storm 83, Los Angeles Lakers 81. Western Conference: Phoenix Suns 102, Chicago Bulls 95. NBA Finals: Orlando Magic 106, Chicago Bulls 95. NBA Finals: Orlando Magic 106, Chicago Bulls 95.

BOWLS

EXETER EWBA Indoor Championships: Peter Dinklage (England) 10-1, Stephen Dinklage (England) 9-1. **WALSLEY** WBA Indoor Championships: Peter Dinklage (England) 10-1, Stephen Dinklage (England) 9-1.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELDS First day of four: Bristol Bears 188 (5) vs. Gloucestershire 71 (1). **WILTSHIRE** 1st Division: Wiltshire 121 (1) vs. Gloucestershire 121 (1).

FOOTBALL

Cup Winners' Cup First leg: Liverpool 4-1, Bayern Munich 2-1. **FA Cup** 4th Round: Arsenal 2-1, Manchester United 1-0. **UEFA Cup** 1st Round: Arsenal 2-1, Manchester United 1-0.

GOLF

PENNA PGA Championship: Tiger Woods 13-1, Phil Mickelson 12-1. **WALSLEY** WBA Indoor Championships: Peter Dinklage (England) 10-1, Stephen Dinklage (England) 9-1.

ICE HOCKEY

SECOND NHL: New York Rangers 4-1, Philadelphia Flyers 3-2. **NATIONAL** Hockey League: New York Rangers 4-1, Philadelphia Flyers 3-2.

OXFORD TORPIDS

WALSLEY WBA Indoor Championships: Peter Dinklage (England) 10-1, Stephen Dinklage (England) 9-1. **WILTSHIRE** 1st Division: Wiltshire 121 (1) vs. Gloucestershire 121 (1).

FOOTBALL

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RUGBY UNION

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RUGBY FOOTBALL

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SAILING

CLIPPER ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Leg 2b (Yokohama to Shanghai): Ian Barker (UK) 1-0, Peter Dinklage (England) 0-1.

SNOKER

BANGKOK Thailand Masters: Second round: Peter Dinklage (England) 5-3, Stephen Dinklage (England) 3-5.

SWIMMING

WALSLEY WBA Indoor Championships: Peter Dinklage (England) 10-1, Stephen Dinklage (England) 9-1. **WILTSHIRE** 1st Division: Wiltshire 121 (1) vs. Gloucestershire 121 (1).

FOOTBALL

Cup Winners' Cup First leg: Liverpool 4-1, Bayern Munich 2-1. **FA Cup** 4th Round: Arsenal 2-1, Manchester United 1-0. **UEFA Cup** 1st Round: Arsenal 2-1, Manchester United 1-0.

TENNIS

WALSLEY WBA Indoor Championships: Peter Dinklage (England) 10-1, Stephen Dinklage (England) 9-1. **WILTSHIRE** 1st Division: Wiltshire 121 (1) vs. Gloucestershire 121 (1).

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RUGBY UNION

Ireland try to correct balance of expectation

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN DUBLIN

WARREN GATLAND, the Ireland coach, sounded a timely note of caution yesterday amid the rising anticipation of tomorrow's Five Nations Championship match against England at Lansdowne Road.

Such is the interest in the match that black-market tickets are said to be changing hands for £600, but Gatland knows that his side is far from the finished article.

"If Ireland, Scotland or Wales had achieved England's recent results, they would be over the moon," Gatland said. "England have set high standards, which may make them vulnerable when they expect to do well, but makes them that much more dangerous when they come under pressure. It brings out the best in them, brings them closer together as a team."

"We are still learning to take our opportunities, to be consistent for 80 minutes. Against Wales, we panicked a bit, tried to defend a lead and stopped playing rugby. But we are learning how to finish a game and I don't think any Ireland player would not fancy his chances against his opposite number on Saturday."

At least Gatland knows that his side will go the distance, having finished so strongly against South Africa and Wales. "We now have a group of people who believe in themselves, who believe they can compete with any side," Donal Lenihan, the manager, said. "It may be a compliment to us that England arrived on Tuesday to prepare; on the other hand, it also shows their professionalism."

England, so deeply disappointed with their narrow victory over Scotland, have begun already the process of rehabilitation. Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, whose play and tactical approach have come under fire over the past ten

days, accepts the criticism. "If the team performs badly, the responsibility falls on me, but you can be sure that, behind closed doors, everyone accepts a degree of responsibility," he said.

"We will be meeting an Ireland side on top of their game, but, on the positive side, we have a lot of experienced players who know the Five Nations and who know what it takes to win in Dublin."

"The expectation on us is huge after the win over South Africa in December. The public want success, but they also want it with style. We are looking for consistency of performance, which should lead to the results that everyone wants. I have belief in my ability as a player and captain and that has been reinforced by the coach and by the team."

Dallaglio shrugs off any suggestion that the back row chosen for tomorrow is not the best available. He has played No 8 for Wales, for England and for the British Isles and feels thoroughly at home in a position that carries with it an enhanced level of decision-making. However, it might assist England's performance if he and Richard Hill refrain from swooping positions during the game against an Ireland pack that will severely examine England's defence.

Neil Back, an integral player in that area, acknowledged that the absence of Will Greenwood, the powerful centre, has been a blow to England. Not only can Greenwood create space for other backs, he offers the back row an obvious target. It would be wrong to expect the same from Jonathan Wilkinson, his replacement, though young Wilkinson is keen to take on a greater attacking role than against Scotland, which indicates both competence and, more significantly, confidence.



Dallaglio, the England captain, a towering presence yesterday below the turrets of the team's training headquarters

Henry works for better days

Wales arrived in Paris yesterday led by Graham Henry, their coach from New Zealand, for whom the match tomorrow against France will be a first taste of international rugby in the French capital.

Henry has previously admitted to being taken aback by the passion and intensity generated in the Five Nations Championship; on Wednesday, he reiterated his feelings. In response to a question about whether he felt the championship should be played on a home and away basis, as in the Tri-Nations tournament between New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, he said: "What we have now is the best international tournament in the world. Let's keep it that way."

Henry considers the skills level in the southern hemisphere to be superior, as is the tier of competition immediately below internationals, but he added: "That is taking nothing away from the intensity and expectation of the Five Nations. They are huge games. In New Zealand, you don't have 75,000-capacity stadiums."

Mark Souster finds that the Wales coach is a fan of the Five Nations

"There are obviously things behind the scenes that, if they were put right, would be of immense help," he said. "There's a vital need for people in Welsh rugby to walk down the same road and have the same objectives. At the moment, there is conflict, which isn't helping. The Cardiff-Swansea thing is playing on the players' minds. There is instability in their future. There's a need for things to be resolved, hopefully in the short term."

There's a vital need for things to be resolved

Is he optimistic? "I'm always hopeful. It's a matter of everyone getting together and working out their differences. People will have to make compromises. We aren't a strong enough rugby nation to have these conflicts going on and expect to improve."

They need to be fixed up. As players and coaches, we need to insulate ourselves from those things as best we can."

There had been suggestions that Henry had issued an ultimatum to the Welsh Rugby Union, to whom he is contracted until after the 2003 World Cup. "I have been trying, in a reasonably subtle way, to work with the decision-makers. I am making my ideas very clear," he said.

"The instability is a real problem. The lack of competitive football below international level is a real problem. I have been involved in this sort of thing before, but when you get challenges like this, it brings the best out of people."

France were forced to make one change yesterday to the team to meet Wales. Olivier Magne, the Brive open-side flanker, who has not missed a game through injury since his international debut in 1997, has had to withdraw because of a foot complaint. He is replaced by Marc Raynaud, of Narbonne, starting his first game for France.

RFU lets Yates off lightly

BY DAVID HANDS

KEVIN YATES, the Bath prop, who was suspended for six months last year for biting Simon Fenn's ear during a cup match with London Scottish, received a further suspension yesterday, though far less than he might have feared. Yates was banned by a Rugby Football Union (RFU) disciplinary panel until April 1 for "reckless" use of the boot during the Allied Dunbar Premiership game against Wasps last month.

Yates, capped by England in Argentina in 1997, was cited by Wasps after a facial injury to Paul Volley, their flanker, which required seven stitches. A three-month suspension was a possibility, but, after scrutinising the video evidence during a hearing lasting less than two hours, the RFU panel, chaired by Jonathan Dance, decided that Yates's action in the game on February 7 had been reckless, but not wilful, and that he should serve no more than a month.

Nigel Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, said Yates's punishment was appropriate. "We wanted it to be confirmed that stamping on heads has no part in our game," he said.

Yet it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the Calcutta Cup match during the intervening period, when Martin Johnson was given a yellow card for stamping on the neck of John Leslie, may have influenced the hearing. Johnson, the England lock, who will play against Ireland tomorrow, claimed the stamp on the Scotland centre was accidental and no action was taken.

Yates will miss league games against Richmond and Saracens and has still to determine how to pay costs due to London Scottish after the prolonged legal debate over the biting incident. London Scottish seek more than £20,000 and the RFU hope to bring the respective parties together next week. They are also due to determine another stamping incident on Tuesday, involving Austin Healey, the Leicester scrum half, during the game with London Irish, whose scrum half, Kevin Puli, was injured.

When France invented the beautiful game

GERALD DAVIES



Rugby Commentary

Twenty-four years ago, Wales travelled to Paris to play their second match at the Parc des Princes, the stadium that had taken over from Stade Colombes. The Parc des Princes, with its overhanging stands, was a grimmer and more solemn place than the venerable stadium it had replaced.

Wales had six players enjoying their first taste of international rugby. It was a bold selectorial decision to initiate such raw talent into what had become, and still remains, the most forbidding of all cities in the Five Nations Championship. Remarkably, Wales won, for the second time in four years. Such success in Paris has eluded them ever since.

It has not always been like this. Between 1959 and 1969, Wales did not win a game in France, but they had previously dominated a series of matches between the countries. From 1908 until 1927, Wales won all the fixtures, with France achieving their first success the following year. Their first win in Wales — in Swansea — was not achieved until 20 years later. And from 1949 to 1959 they shared the spoils at Stade Colombes.

This retrospective is to draw attention to the fact that French rugby, despite all the acknowledged flair and traditional gifts, had not been noticeably successful. They were very late starters in the manner of winning. During recent decades, however, French eminence has remained steadfast. They have been the mainstay of rugby's reputation in the northern hemisphere for 40 years.

This is noteworthy since it is often held that consistency is not their most obvious characteristic. The change came with Lucien Mias, the famous captain of the late 1950s. The trouble with France teams, he observed, was that they played "like a collection of captains", each player wanting to express his individuality with no sense of unity of purpose.

Mias could be said to be the man most responsible for transforming their game. He persuaded his countrymen — while acknowledging the romantic flavour of French rugby — to recognise also the power of teamwork and the need for physical strength and a firm spirit. This philosophy would be inherited by Jacques Fouroux as captain in the Seventies and coach in the Eighties, but, sadly, without the same romantic vision.

Mias was the leader of the France team in 1958 that, for the first time, beat South Africa in Johannesburg in a two-match series. He was to lead them to the Five Nations Championship outright for the first time in their history the next year. This success provided the springboard for their recent eminence.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon at Wembley in April, they were at their most beguiling and enticing. They raised the game to that level which is exquisitely and uniquely French, "Panache," we say, liking the sound of the word, but knowing what it means only when we see someone elegantly parading it. The performance will live in the memory, especially that of Thomas Castaignède, a genius unchained at fly half. They scored a half-century of points.

Rugby is dramatic. Rugby is tough and heroic. There can be marvellous matches of pluck and fortitude; matches of tantalising and rippling movement. There are games that inspire us. For all this, rugby has never been thought of as a beautiful game. But on that gloriously balmy afternoon, France declared in the boldest colours that for them — and only for them, I would guess — rugby has the potential to be so.

Rugby is a thing of beauty. It is a memory cherished by most people, but one that Wales would wish to erase.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon at Wembley in April, they were at their most beguiling and enticing. They raised the game to that level which is exquisitely and uniquely French, "Panache," we say, liking the sound of the word, but knowing what it means only when we see someone elegantly parading it. The performance will live in the memory, especially that of Thomas Castaignède, a genius unchained at fly half. They scored a half-century of points.

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Leaked revelations a blow to Channel 4 scoop

When you get your 15 minutes of fame made sure you've got a good agent. Having paid £400,000 for Monica Lewinski's first UK television interview, Channel 4 was not going to be backward in hyping forward. Preview tapes were withheld until yesterday morning, prompting cries of "Hold the television paper" to echo around Wapping.

But given that yesterday's papers were full of accounts of her American interview with Barbara Walters, and that Channel 4 was sending out press releases containing the juicier quotes from Jon Snow's, this may seem a little disingenuous. It won't do the book sales any harm, though.

Following Walters didn't make Jon Snow's job any easier. The more dramatic or lurid "revelations", such as Lewinski's claim to have contemplated jumping from the tenth-storey office where Bill Clinton was grilling her, were already in the public domain from advance publicity on Morton's book. We all guessed that she no longer values Linda Tripp's friendship, and has mixed feelings about Clinton himself.

Nor did it help that Lewinski is polishing her act as she goes along. She told Walters, ludicrously, that lifting her skirt to show Clinton her thong knickers was a "small, subtle, flirtatious gesture". But for Snow this had been edited down to "a very small gesture". Not where I come from, it isn't.

In fact Snow's approach, which worked well, was to do the thinking for her. All the telling phrases came from him. Lewinski herself calls in that teeth-curving Californian emotive-speak, for instance, "and it needs to be honoured and cherished". Her family are to be "honoured" and "valued" and everyone she met seems to have "violated" her in some way or other.

Snow offered her a long string of telling propositions about her reactions and feelings, many of which she had not anticipated. She began with an extraordinary puppyish charm: wide-eyed, beaming, almost gushing and giggling like a schoolgirl — 25 going on 15.

But Snow pushed her firmly but tactfully into the darker zones, and a picture began to emerge of an admittedly self-deluding and less than completely moral innocent, sucked into a nightmare of cynicism, deceit and ruthless manipulation. The bubbles subsided and a troubled, saddened air descended, tinged with the fear that her immunity from prosecution could still be lifted by a false move, with the gates of the penitentiary beckoning.

The fact that Kenneth Starr's team have gagged her from discussing the way they "handled"

her surely torpedoes their claim to be disinterested seekers after truth. You do not have to like or admire Clinton to see that Lewinski was a human dum-dum bullet, fired in a failed coup d'état.

She seemed an articulate, guileless, warm-hearted woman, but this is a world of mirrors, most of them two-way, and hidden agendas, so who can really tell? If only the President had headed Rudyard

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

Kipling's observation that "a woman is only a woman, but a good cigar is a smoke". That's right, Bill, a smoke.

Football's Foreign Legion (Channel 5) was an example of a rare and precarious beast, a half-way decent Channel 5 document. Half-way only because, like Dickens's *The Pickwick Papers*, the programme was something of a "loose and baggy monster".

There was an inconclusive discussion about whether the flood of foreign cockroaches was killing our native chicks, or whether they were teaching by example. A further inconclusive debate looked at the globalisation of the sport, suggesting that a multinational mogul such as, to pick an example at random, Rupert Murdoch, might plant a Japanese player on Manchester United in order to open up Japanese markets to his media products.

But most of the footage consisted

of profiles of genial foreign footballers such as Eyal Berkovic of Israel and West Ham, who has found happiness at Solihull's kosher restaurant, Golders Green, even though his team-mates are often unintelligible as "zay spik Cockinik".

In fact the greatest effect of the foreign invasion may be on the fans. They have been introduced to smoother, classier, cleverer ways of playing "the beautiful game" as it is known to initiates. Or "the game of running about a lot in the mud" as it is known to the rest of us.

Not that that makes much difference to the Glasgow fans. They are determined that the new foreign players, including the six Roman Catholics playing for traditionally Protestant Rangers, are fully aware of the treasured heritage of Rangers-Celtic sectarian hatred, we were told.

But foreign players, unlike

Liverpool's Robbie Fowler, are not ashamed to be thoughtful. Chelsea's French international Frank Leboeuf, for instance, is no mad cow, whatever his name may imply. "We've got only one life and I want to be involving many cultures and it was very important to come abroad and see how English people live," he rummaged appreciatively. I wonder if Gazza ever said that in Italian.

Would the ranting xenophobic fan who taunted Eric Cantona have realised what a prat he was if the mono-brow philosopher had not dropped-kicked him in the solar plexus? Sadly the programme overlooked this point, but "ze pilchard 'oo dances in ze ship's spume, must bewair ze unexpected shag", as Eric might say. Or "He's French; he's flash, and he's seeing [I think that was the word] Leslie. 'Eh, Cantona!" as Manchester United fans once chanted, clearly inspired by his Gallic muse.

- BBC1**
- 8.00am Business Breakfast (30940)
 - 7.00 Breakfast News (7) (43969)
 - 9.00 Kilroy (7) (2822327)
 - 9.45 The Vanessa Show (7) (7380389)
 - 10.55 News: Weather (7) (3364853)
 - 11.00 Change That (3374230)
 - 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (7) (3361389)
 - 11.55 News: Weather (7) (7293327)
 - 12.00pm Call My Bluff (14308)
 - 12.30 Wipeout (4805785)
 - 12.35 The Weather Show (7) (53949785)
 - 1.00 One O'Clock News (7) (40056)
 - 1.30 Regional News: Weather (5661380)
 - 1.40 Neighbours (7) (35918018)
 - 2.05 Inmate Practical Jokers with a sick sense of humour keep the police in suspense (7) (2122553)
 - 2.35 Through the Keyhole (7) (7110358)
 - 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (768360)
 - 3.45 Sports (3332523) 3.50 Sport on the Road (3044872) 4.05 Rugby (342414)
 - 4.30 L & K Friday (3342322) 4.55 Newsround Extra (580211) 5.10 Blue Peter (5701476)
 - 5.35 Neighbours (7) (7) (143211)
 - 6.00 Six O'Clock News (7) (259)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (211)
 - 7.00 Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook Kate Winslet and Grey O'Brien grace the hectic cookery show (7) (5018)
 - 7.30 Top of the Pops Performances by Blur, The Combs, Cher, Celine Dion, Whitney Houston, Britney Spears and Stereophonics (7) (495)
 - 8.00 Gordon Force Alan Titchmarsh and the team pitch in to create the ultimate football fan's garden, complete with corner grandstand (4/8) (7) (4766)
 - 8.30 The Builders The council gives the go-ahead to Tony Keating's latest project (7) (650)
 - 9.00 One O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (7) (2383)
 - 9.30 Parkinson With the comedian Lennox and Rolf Harris (7) (336579)



War-time action with Clint Eastwood and Richard Burton (10.25pm)

- 10.25 Where Eagles Dare (1969) Commandos set out to rescue an American general captured by the Nazis. Second World War espionage thriller, with Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood. Directed by Brian G. Hutton (50331018)
- 12.55am A Child for Satan (TVM 1991) Chiller, starring Maria Gargany as a pregnant woman who moves to New Mexico with her husband, only to be unsettled by a warning that evil forces are stirring. Directed by Robert Lieberman, John Schwartzman (7) (4254438)
- 10.25 Just Up Your Street (332563) 11.00 Facing The King: Dai Smith in Conversation with Barry John (384360) 11.40 FILM: Where Eagles Dare (7) (59154230) 2.10am-2.15 News Headlines and Weather (7) (5924148)

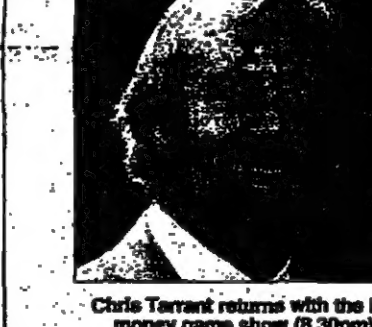
- BBC2**
- 7.00am CBBC Breakfast Show: Pingu (7740308) 7.05 Teletubbies (6730768) 7.30 Snorks (585521) 7.50 Short Changes (370322) 8.15 Revlon (3144583) 8.20 Top Model (3351822) 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (1346230) 8.50 Pingu (1346414) 9.00 Storytime (7957230) 9.10 See You, See Me (4659105) 9.30 Numberline (608211) 9.45 Come Outside (6033768) 10.00 Teletubbies (3939) 10.30 Megamaths (1837650) 10.50 Look & Read (1857414) 11.10 Landmarks (3540124) 11.30 English Language (124) 12.00pm Scene (32150) 12.30 Working Lunch (47124) 1.00 Johnson & Friends (6826360)
 - 1.10 The House Detectives (7) (4100056)
 - 1.40 Hart-Davis on History (3322211)
 - 2.10 Asch with Colour (3772360)
 - 2.40 News: Weather (7) (3364853)
 - 2.45 **WORLD** World Indoor Athletics Championships Introduced by Helen Rollason (4813124)
 - 3.25 News: Weather (7) (4063476)
 - 3.55 Kays (5728327)
 - 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (7) (6407872)
 - 4.55 Esther (7) (5482853)
 - 5.30 Today's Day (7) (360)
 - 6.00 The Simpsons (7) (717360)
 - 6.20 The Simpsons (7) (712476)
 - 6.45 Robot Wars: The Grand Final (153327)
 - 7.15 Electric Circus (7) (222394)
 - 7.30 Country House: Lord and Lady Tavitock appear to have made themselves unpopular (7) (227)
 - 8.00 Trust Me, I'm a Doctor Dr Phil Hammond leads researchers looking to boost the British man's dwindling sperm production (7) (2308)
 - 8.30 Gardeners' World: Stephen Lacey meets an octogenarian gardener in Santa Barbara (3/30) (7) (4143)
 - 9.00 **MURDER** Murder Most Horrid Dawn WPC who sweeps rural life for an undercover mission (7) (2329)
 - 9.30 News: The Buzzards With: West, East and Billie (7) (27380)
 - 10.00 The Young Ones (7) (13679)
 - 10.30 Newsnight (7) (245327)
 - 11.18 Video Nation Shorts (7) (392495)
 - 11.20 Birth, Marriage and Death: Graham, accidentally discovers Molly's well-kept secret (7) (649785)
 - 12.10am Shoot the Pianist (1960) A timid but pianist is drawn into a world of crime by his brothers, who are on the run from vicious gangsters. Directed by Francois Truffaut (5916231)



Another chance to see the Brit award winner Natalie Imbruglia live (1.30am)

- 1.30 Later with Jools Holland With Page and Plant; Gomez; Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds and Natalie Imbruglia (7) (235051)
- 2.35 Weather (569167) 2.40 Close
- 3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GOSPEL Revision: French 1 (84588) 5.00 Close

- HTV**
- 5.00am ITN Morning News (32330)
 - 6.00 GMTV (508785)
 - 9.25 Trisha (7) (8218414)
 - 10.30 This Morning (7) (4483038)
 - 12.30pm HTV News (7) (4311650)
 - 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (7) (34650)
 - 12.55 HTV Crimestoppers (33634853)
 - 1.00 WALKER: What You Were Here? Greece, Naples, the Swiss Alps and the Himalayas (7) (31124)
 - 1.00 WEST: Shortland Street Nick loses control (31124)
 - 1.30 Home and Away Things are looking up for Chloe and James (7) (33821)
 - 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (5615478)
 - 2.45 Wheel of Fortune (7) (538689)
 - 3.15 ITN News Headlines (7) (4061018)
 - 3.20 HTV News (7) (4091259)
 - 3.25 CITY: Mopetop's Shop (4074582) 3.35 Timelapse (3034495) 3.45 Animal Stories (3315673) 3.55 Goggle Stix (470872) 4.15 Pump It Up (13018)
 - 4.45 Comin' Atcha (336143)
 - 5.10 A Country Practice Darcy saves Billy's bacon. Last in series (716683)
 - 5.40 ITN Early Evening News (7) (774230)
 - 6.00 Home and Away Things are looking up for Chloe and James (7) (143488)
 - 6.25 WALKER: What You Were Here? (7) (330650)
 - 6.55 WEST: HTV Weather (335495)
 - 6.55 WEST: The West Tonight (7) (679)
 - 7.00 WEST: A Taste of Things to Come new programmes on HTV (12474)
 - 7.00 BBC: Football's Five Cards Right Game show (7/18) (7) (3414)
 - 7.30 Coronation Street The game's over for Ian (7) (683)
 - 8.00 Days Like These The gang goes to a disco where they nearly change partners, while Bob thinks Ron has a rival for Kitty's affections (4/13) (7) (9334)



Chris Tarrant returns with the big money game show (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Who Wants to be a Millionaire? New series: Chris Tarrant hosts the ultimate big-prize game show (7) (3883)
- 9.00 Britain's Worst Roads The state of the nation's highways and byways (7) (568)
- 10.00 News at Ten: Weather (7) (32655)
- 10.30 HTV News and Weather (7) (137360)
- 10.40 Murray and Martin's F1 Preview A look ahead to the forthcoming Formula One season (7) (10259)
- 11.10 Pink Cadillac (1989) Comedy adventure, starring Clint Eastwood as a bounty hunter searching for a woman who stole \$250,000 from a vicious gang of neo-Nazis (7) (2255677)
- 1.30am F1: Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Action and news from the qualifying session for tomorrow night's Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park in Melbourne (7) (81254)
- 3.20 The Haunted Fishbowl (1254322)
- 3.35 Trisha Show (4/21) (7) (856148)
- 4.50 TV Nightvision (4221525)
- 5.00 Coronation Street (7) (7) (33964)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News: Weather (7) (756018) 1.00 Wish You Were Here? (7) (31124) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (5615478) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (7) (33821) 2.45-3.15 Central News: Weather (7) (4091259) 3.15-3.45 Shortland Street (7) (33821) 3.45-4.15 Central News: Weather (7) (137360) 4.15-4.45 Late Tackle (1/8) (7571259) 4.45-5.15 Murray and Martin's F1 Preview (7) (10259) 5.15-5.40 Anatomy of Disaster (1252072) 5.40-6.15 Murray and Martin's F1 Preview (7) (10259) 6.15-6.45 The Haunted Fishbowl (7) (3365706) 6.45-7.15 Central Jobfinder '99 (7) (332883) 7.15-7.30 Asian Eye (3606902)
 - As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News: Weather (7) (4311650) 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (7574037) 1.00 Westcountry Show (31124) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (7) (5615478) 2.15-2.45 Home and Away (7) (33821) 2.45-3.15 Westcountry News: Weather (7) (4311650) 3.15-3.45 Birthdays People (3614580) 3.45-4.15 Home and Away (7) (33821) 4.15-4.45 Westcountry Live (7) (56989) 4.45-5.15 Westcountry News: Weather (7) (151940) 5.15-5.40 The Other Side (423688) 5.45-6.15 Murray and Martin's F1 Preview (7) (413211) 6.15-6.45 The Haunted Fishbowl (7) (3365706)
 - As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News: Weather (4311650) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7) (33821) 5.40-6.15 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 6.15-6.45 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 6.45-7.15 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 7.15-7.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 7.30-8.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 8.00-8.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 8.30-9.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 9.00-9.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 9.30-10.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 10.00-10.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 10.30-11.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 11.00-11.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 11.30-12.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 12.00-12.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 12.30-1.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.00-1.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 1.30-2.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 2.00-2.30 Meridian News: Weather (7) (4311650) 2.30-3.00 Meridian News: Weather (7) 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RUGBY LEAGUE 47

Challengers line up to claim crown from the Monie men

SPORT

FRIDAY MARCH 5 1999

CRICKET 50

Lara faces biggest character test of his career



Kinnear told to rest after heart scare



Kinnear's long-term future is in doubt after heart attack

JOE KINNEAR, the Wimbledon manager, suffered a heart attack before his club's match against Sheffield Wednesday on Wednesday evening. He will not be in charge for the game against Leicester City, also in the FA Cup Premier League, at Selhurst Park tomorrow and is unlikely to be released from the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield until after the weekend.

Kinnear, 52, has been told to rest for at least two weeks and will have to take medication for the foreseeable future. He could miss the rest of the season as he recuperates and his long-term future may also be in doubt. It will not be discussed by Wimbledon officials until he has returned to London and settled at home. After complaining of chest pains before the game at Hillsborough, which Wimbledon went on to

win 2-1, Kinnear was taken to hospital by ambulance. Sam Hammam, Wimbledon's partner-governor, spent the evening with Kinnear and they were later joined by Kinnear's wife, Bonnie. She remained at the hospital yesterday as her husband underwent more tests. Kinnear, one of the longest-serving managers in the Premiership, was said to be "comfortable". "I'd like to bet he was sitting up, taking a lightly boiled egg and chatting up all the nurses," a close friend said. "Not much will change. I'm sure he'll be back at the helm before too long."

A hospital spokesman was less sure. "I think that's way down the line," he said. "I'm sure that's not even on his own or Mr Hammam's mind at the moment, even though they would have to consider it. I'm sure it's not uppermost in their minds. The main thing is for Mr Kinnear to get himself back to health."

Kenny Cunningham, the Wimbledon captain, had noticed that Kinnear was troubled during the pre-match warm-up. "As we were coming off the pitch, it became obvious that Joe was in some type of discomfort," he said. "We thought it might have been indigestion or something like that. An ambulance then came and took him to hospital. It was a bit of a shock at the time, but, hopefully, the worst is now behind him. It was in our minds during the match and especially afterwards, but I don't think it had any bearing on the game."

Football management has long been regarded as a stressful job, particularly in the Premiership, in which the demand for success — and the financial rewards that go with it — have reached unrealistic levels. Kinnear is an often volatile character, who believes in expressing his emotions in the most demonstrable manner possible. His state of mind cannot have been helped by Wimbledon's double defeat against Tottenham Hotspur in the FA Cup fourth round and Worthington Cup semi-finals, last month, which produced four matches of intense pressure on and off the pitch. He responded typically by saying that Wimbledon could still qualify for Europe via a high finish in the Premiership and they lie sixth after the victory at Hillsborough.

Hill backing Schumacher for world title

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MELBOURNE

THE recommendation can come no higher than from the man with the biggest axe to grind, but Damon Hill was willing yesterday to press the claims of Michael Schumacher, his old adversary, as the Formula One motor racing world champion this year.

Hill would seem the least likely to declare his support for the driver who presented the biggest obstacle to his own championship ambitions, particularly on the eve of the first grand prix of the season. It was in Australia that the German prevented Hill from winning his first world title by allowing his Benetton to come into contact with the Englishman's Williams in 1994.

The incident was judged to have been an accident, but Hill is now wise enough to believe that Schumacher's innate cunning probably robbed him of victory and their rivalry has continually

would certainly be good for Ferrari, but if Michael starts this year as he finished last season, then the advantage will be with Ferrari and Michael Schumacher.

"It's a gut feeling. McLaren started here with a 2sec advantage, in effect, last year and Ferrari ended up being on level terms towards the end of the season. That gives Michael a magnificent chance."

Schumacher was sidelined by his only mechanical failure of the season in Melbourne last year, while the McLaren's of Mika Hakkinen — on his way to the championship — and David Coulthard humiliated the opposition by lapping the entire field.

Perhaps Hill's assessment would have been tempered if he had witnessed the German's lukewarm performance in his first significant press conference of the season. This was Schumacher at his worst: uninterested, terse, even leaving the stage for a toilet break at one point while Ron Dennis, the McLaren team principal, answered questions.

Not that Hakkinen, his chief rival, was in much better form. The world champion said that he is relaxed and determined to retain his title, yet he, too, seemed to be out of sorts, even anxious. In fact, the only world champion who appeared geared up for the challenge was Hill, the oldest man on the grid and the driver most readily tipped for retirement at the end of the season.

Eddie Jordan, the team owner, has already warned that a poor season would see Hill, 37, hanging up his helmet and overalls and walking into the bliss of family life at home in Ireland.

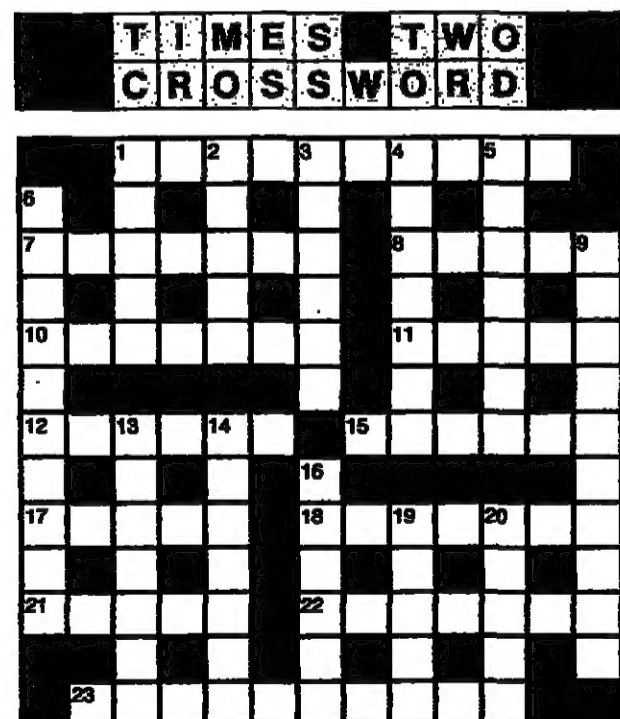
However, Hill spoke enthusiastically yesterday of developing a car that might win races this season and might be ready to challenge for the world championship next season.

Hill is delighted with Jordan's progress before the opening grand prix of the season this weekend, but believes that Schumacher has a better title chance

taxi to take them out for a meal and then to a club to listen to a rhythm and blues band as thanks for their relentless hard work in getting his new Jordan ready for the race on Sunday.



Schumacher's performance yesterday left much to be desired



No 1657

- ACROSS
- Welsh town: WW2 general (10)
 - Result (7)
 - Skill: guile (5)
 - One from Myanmar: type of cat (7)
 - Item of information (5)
 - Surface glow: glory (in reputation) (6)
 - Waterproof jacket: a nerd (slang) (6)
 - Natural usage (language) (5)
 - Pioneering missionary (7)
 - Mouth of eg Nile: Mississippi (5)
 - Bitter bark extract, for malaria once (7)
- DOWN
- Vehicle engine (5)
 - Looped rope-end (5)
 - Hansel's sister (6)
 - Alexander the Great's king (7)
 - Nuclear-energy device (7)
 - Tubby (3-7)
 - One operating stopwatch (4-6)
 - Little pan (7)
 - Arthur — Fr. poet (7)
 - Macbeth saw his ghost (6)
 - Upstairs bay: its window (5)
 - Coil, distort (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1656

ACROSS: 1 Light 4 Brigade 8 Atrocious 9 Ash 10 Half 11 Sealyham 13 League 14 Onward 17 Croatian 19 Rail 22 Fat 23 Blundered 24 Reppress 25 Yemen

DOWN: 1 Leash 2 Gorilla 3 Tack 4 Broken 5 Insolent 6 Awash 7 Exhumed 12 Suitable 13 Lucifer 15 Anagram 16 Jaques 18 On top 20 Laden 21 D-Day

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Richmond face cash crisis

BY MARK SOUSTER

A CRISIS meeting at Richmond was continuing late last night to determine whether the financially-troubled Allied Dunbar Premiership rugby union club should, as seems inevitable, apply to go into administration. As the management discussed the implications of Ashley Levett's decision to scale down his investment, which stands at more than £6 million, it transpired that approaches are expected to be made to John Madejski, the multimillionaire owner of Reading Football Club, with a view to a possible takeover.

Levett, who built the new showpiece stadium where Richmond now play, is in the Far East on business, but it would make obvious sense for the tycoon, who made his fortune from car magazines, to become involved. There are plans to share the rugby and football administrations, but whether Madejski wants to take control, giving the scale of

club, which moved its base from south-west London last season to cut annual losses from £2.8 million to £1.6 million. The revelation of the club's dire straits could not come at a more inopportune moment. They have just reached the semi-finals of the Tedley's Bitter Cup and the financial problems will create uncertainty within the playing squad of 32, who have been reassured that there is sufficient money to keep the club going until the end of the season.

Levett, a commodity trader based in Monaco, is the second of the new breed of owner to withdraw from professional rugby. Sir John Hall, who set the benchmark three years ago when he enticed Rob Andrew to Newcastle for £150,000 a year, recently pulled out of the club after writing off an estimated £8 million.

England set the standard, page 49

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